我が名は海師 3

[原作] 小森陽一　武村勇治 [作画]

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Master Of Sea

YOICHI KOMORI+YUJI TAKEMURA

Rintarou has agreed to raise a ship from under the Kenmon Bridge, but it is said to be impossible to raise ships at that point. The current flows fast in the Kenmen Streets, making it impossible to encher the crane ship he needs to raise the ship.

Even if he can encher it, the height of the bridge will prevent the crane from drawing out its full power. However if the streets stay blocked, Japen's economy will be in greve danger! In his desperate search for a solution, Rintarou remembers something impertent from his childhood...!?

[原作] 小森陽一
[作画] 武村勇治 著作集

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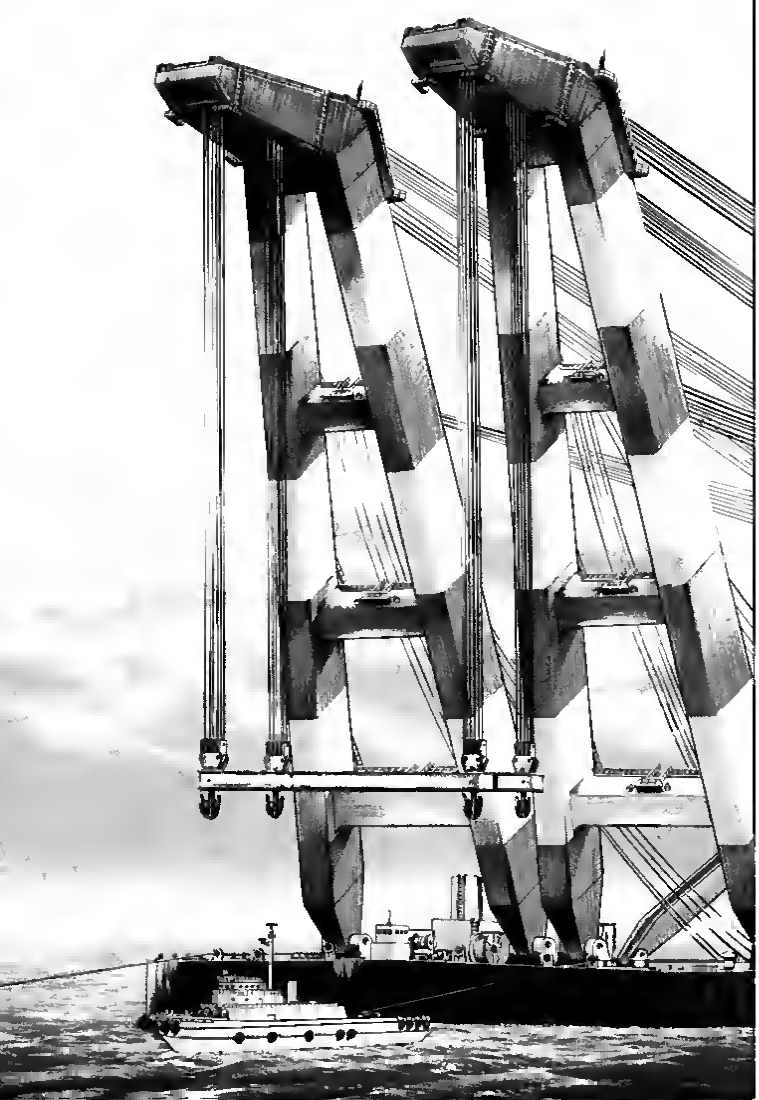
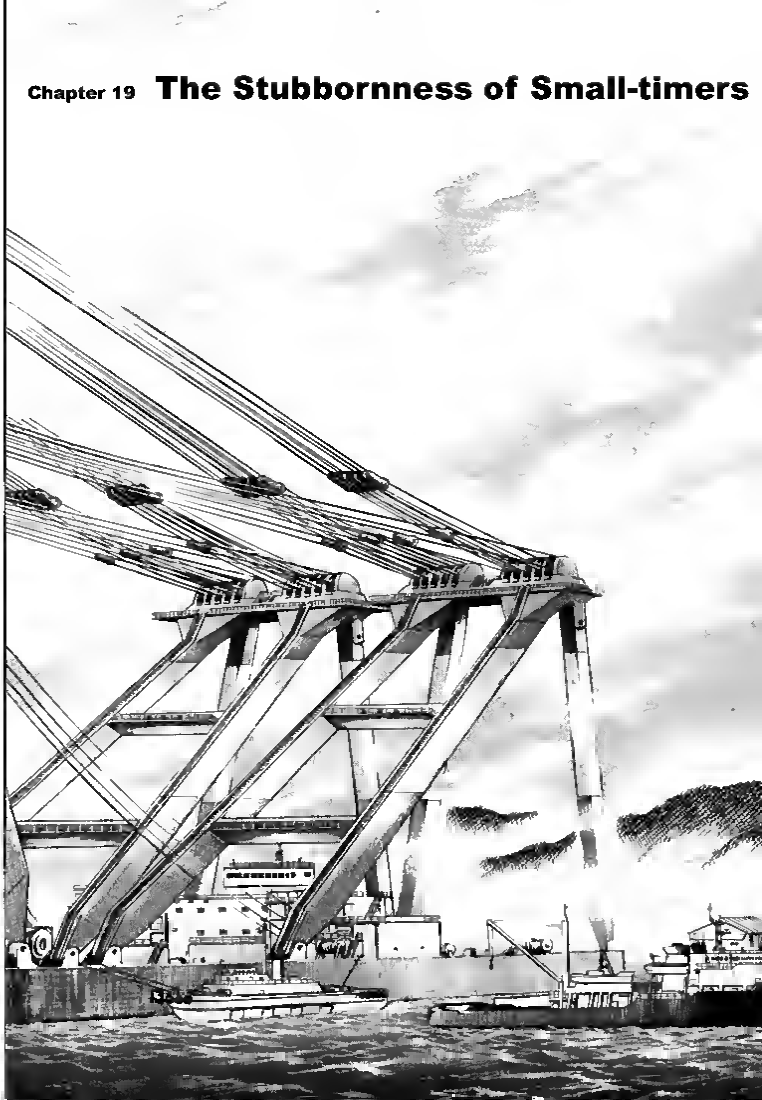
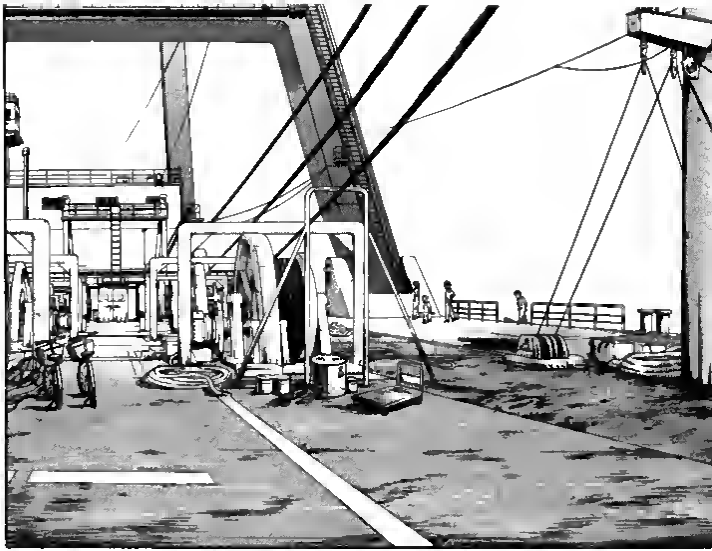
Chapter 19

The Stubbornness of Small-timers



Chapter 19 The Stubbornness of Small-timers





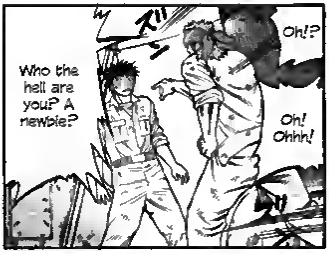
4

It's totally unreal.
Everything's way too big...
TEKKAL
鉄塊
What...
What is this thing?

All of Nanba's lined up to greet me!?
ORA ORA ORA ORA ORA ORA ORAAAAA!
It's been far too long, ya bastards!
How about we hit the town tonight, hmm? Hmm!?
I can't keep up with you
Gahaha, not as much as you!
Yo, Funakoshi! Still going strong, I see!

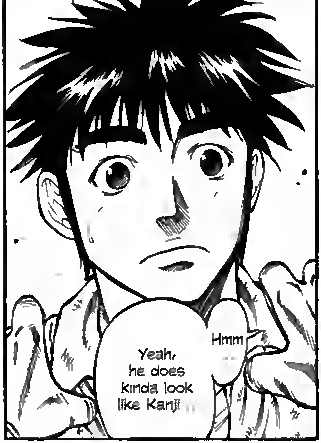
You've gotten so pretty!
Ohh, Hiro-chan!
A salvage master should be fancier and more refined, ya know!
Sawa-mura, you're as boring as ever!
What the hell?
Will you go out with me tonight?
Hm? Hmmm?
He's huge...
Hn !?

HUH!?
GRRR
Y-you too, who are you?

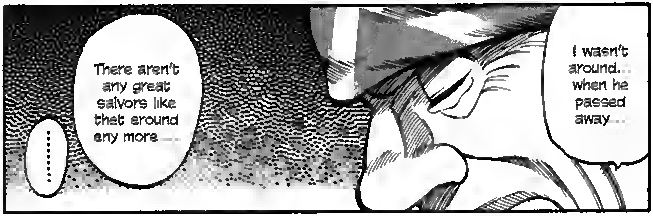

Who the hell are you? A newbie?
Oh!?
Oh! Ohhh!

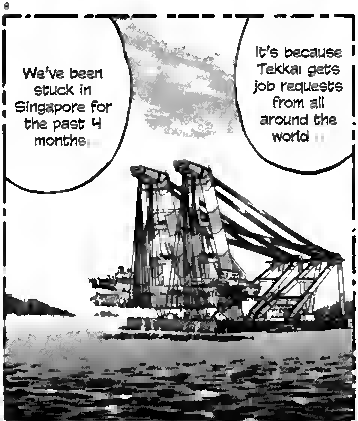
Got a problem, asshole!?
I'm Igarashi Seizou, Tekkai's captain!

He's the boss's son, little Rintarou...
Hey, Furuskoshi! Who's this stuck-up little punk?


Hmm...
Yeah, he does kinda look like Kanji...

That little squirt!? He's grown so big!
OOHHH!


I wasn't around... when he passed away...
There aren't any great salvors like that around any more.....
.....


We've been stuck in Singapore for the past 4 months...
It's because Tekkai gets job requests from all around the world...

I couldn't come to the funeral!
I'm sorry!

It's almost as if Kanji himself drew me here...
As soon as I returned to Japan for the first time in a while, I got the call from Nanba...

Okay!

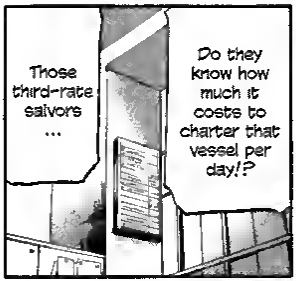
Right!

Tell me all about the job right now, ya bastard!

The salvage mission on the Gloria Queen was a success

We owe you one. Thank you!
Just as expected of the world-famous Yamato Salvage!
Ohh! Fixing a wrecked ship and returning it to port this quickly...

I'm just glad you're happy.
Well... Since the shipping lane is now blocked by a ship we can't really be too happy...
Can't Yamato do something about that?
.....
I'm very sorry but raising that ship any time soon is impossible.
For anyone...
Yeah... Just inspecting the wreck doesn't mean anything, Namba...
Mr. Eguchi!


Those third-rate salvors ...
Do they know how much it costs to charter that vessel per day!?

Tekkai !?
!?

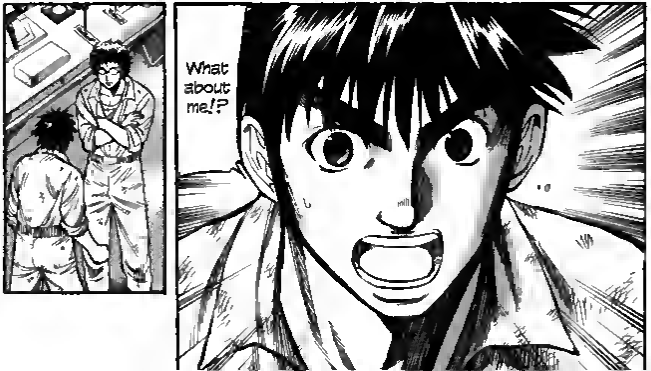
12

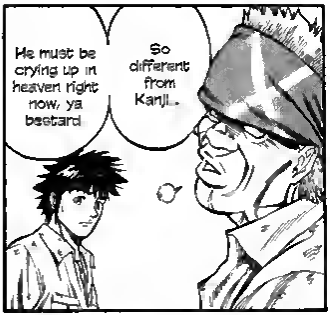
Are those guys serious.?
Are they seriously planning to raise it.!?

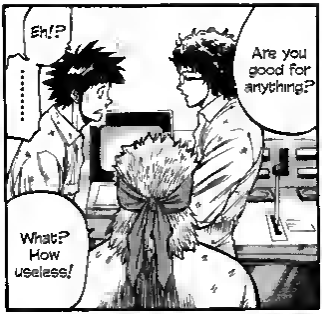
Normally, in order to raise the Dairin-maru
We would carry out the cars and other cargo to make it easier to raise, set the ship upright, patch the hole and fill the ship with air, but...
This time we're going to skip all that and raise it in one go. Do you know why?
We don't have the time!
While we were doing that, Japan would be in big trouble!
Yeah.
Right! Next, here's how we'll split the work.

Hiro!
You're in charge of negotiations with the ship and cargo owners and gathering and sorting data on the tides and weather.
OK!

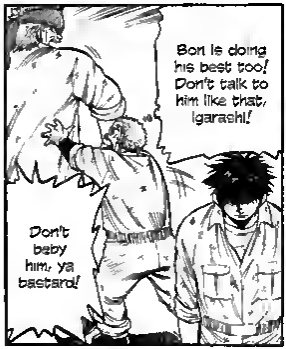
Gramps, you'll do the load weight calculations and give me directions when I'm underwater!
Leave it to me!

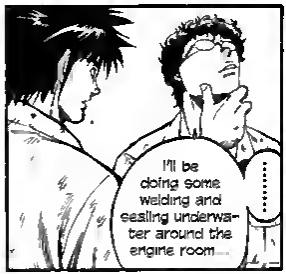

What about me!?


He must be crying up in heaven right now, ya bastard
So different from Kanji...


Eh!?
.....
Are you good for anything?
What? How useless!

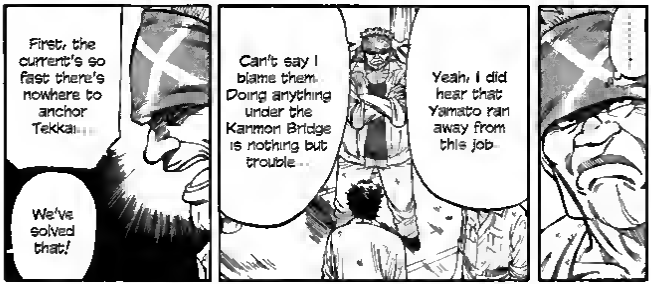
15

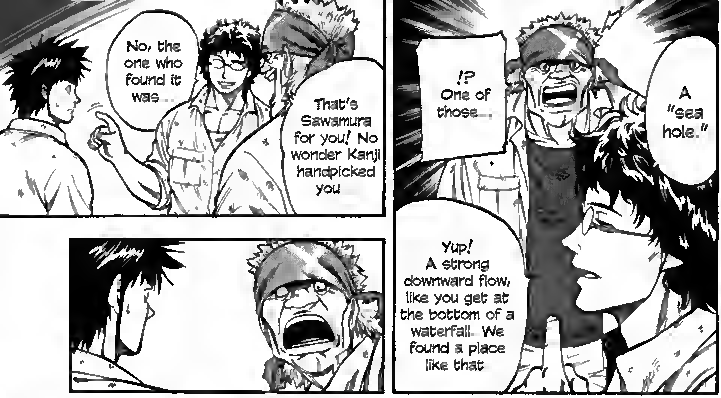

Bon is doing his best too! Don't talk to him like that, Igarashi!
Don't baby him, ya bastard!


I'll be doing some welding and sealing underwater around the engine room...

This is our chance to stick it to the great Yamato Salvage! Don't screw up!
It'll be annoying to do all that by myself, and I guess I should show you how it's done while I'm at it...

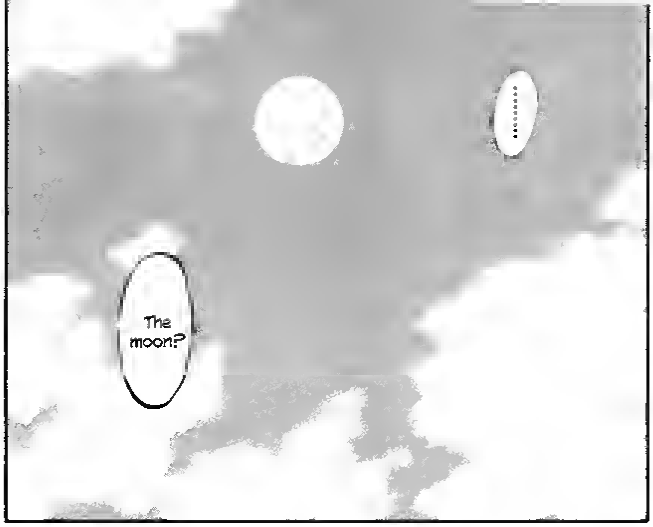
16

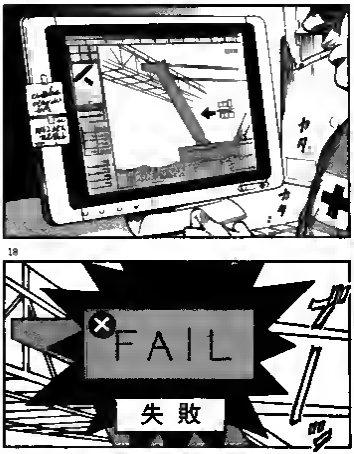

First, the current's so fast there's nowhere to anchor Tekka...
We've solved that!
Can't say I blame them. Doing anything under the Kanmon Bridge is nothing but trouble...
Yeah, I did hear that Yamato ran away from this job.
.....

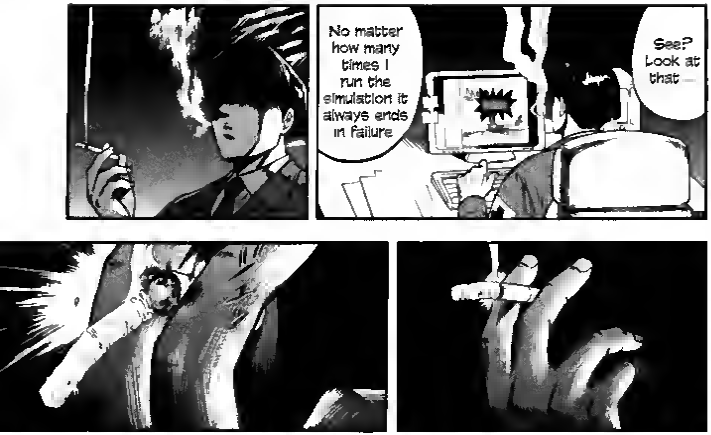

No, the one who found it was...
That's Sawamura for you! No wonder Kanji handpicked you
!? One of those...
A "sea hole."
Yup! A strong downward flow, like you get at the bottom of a waterfall. We found a place like that

What, you're pretty useful after all, ya bastard!
Owowow
YAAAAAH!

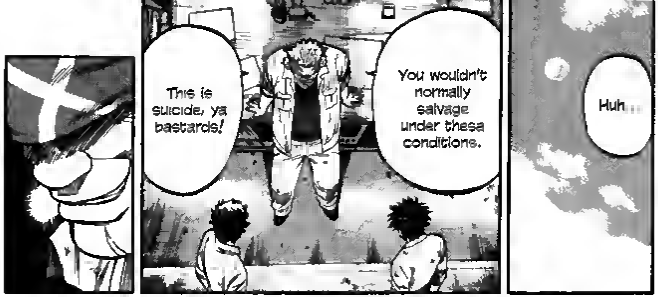
The 14th.
So when do we do it?
Why then?


The moon!?


FAIL
失敗

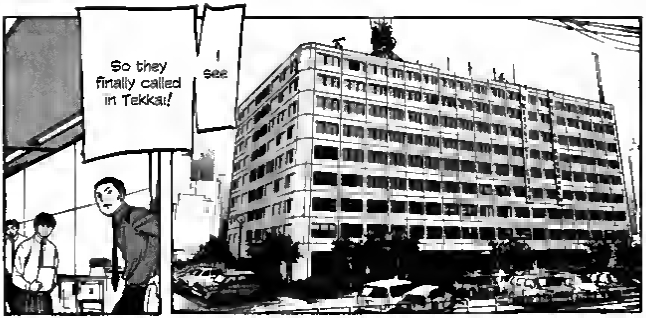

No matter how many times I run the simulation it always ends in failure
See? Look at that...

Pisses me off...!!
Stupid small-time saVors getting all uppity...


Huh...
You wouldn't normally salvage under these conditions.
This is suicide, ya bastards!

I like it...
I like you guys...

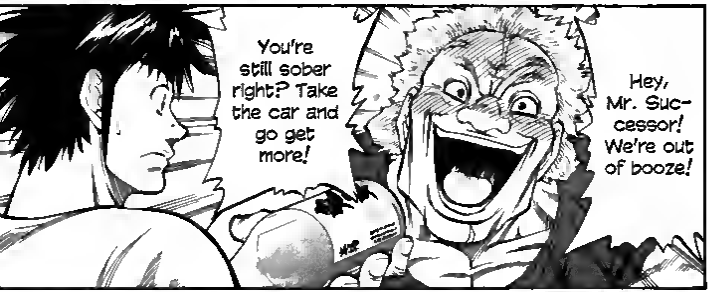
I'll take the job!
Let's die together, ya bastards!

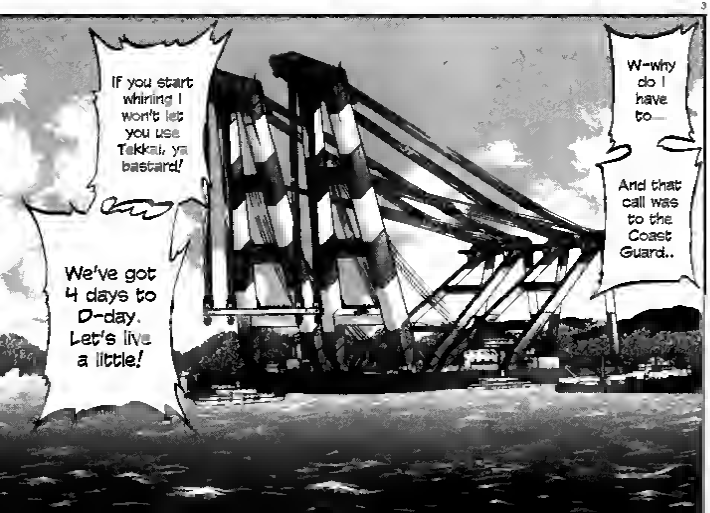


Chapter 20 The job known as "Waiting"

Chapter 20 The job known as "Waiting"

Huh?
Well...
Why did you pick the 14th? That day is...
Huh? What did you say?


You're still sober right? Take the car and go get more!
Hey, Mr. Successor! We're out of booze!

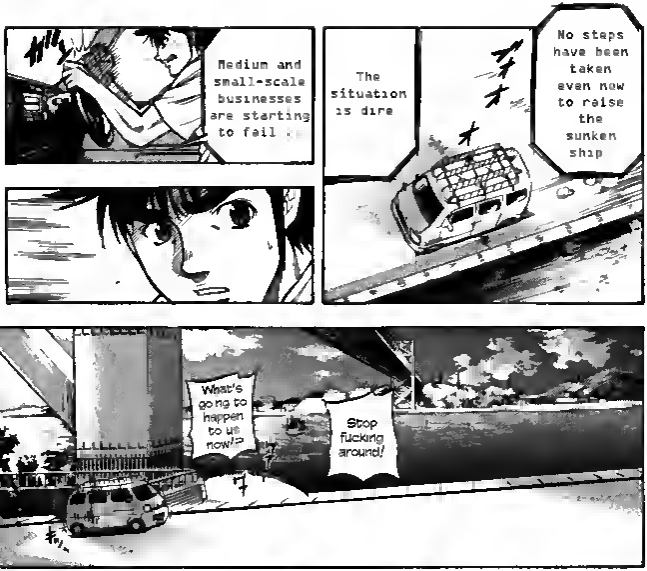

If you start whining I won't let you use Tekken, ya bastard!
W-why do I have to...
And that call was to the Coast Guard..
We've got 4 days to D-day. Let's live a little!

Oh dear.
Prices have gone up again...
Do they know what's happening to Japan right now?

Geez! That's why salvage companies have such a bad rep.

And my husband can't go fishing so he's not making any money. If prices go up any more we'll be in trouble.
Because of that sunken ship new goods aren't arriving.

Oh my, please don't say that!
Aaah. I wish they'd raise that ship quickly....


Medium and small-scale businesses are starting to fail...
The situation is dire
No steps have been taken even now to raise the sunken ship
What's going to happen to us now!?
Stop fucking around!

What are the salvage companies doing!?
How am I supposed to live now!?
My company is done for!

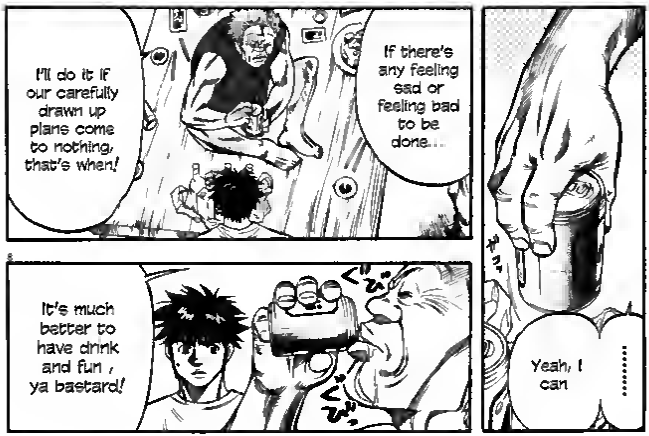
SUPER

Is there really nothing we can do?

While you're here making fools of yourselves, people are crying out there, you know...

What's eatin' ya, succes-sor?

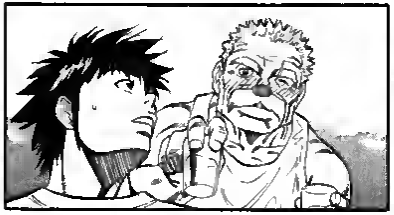
Don't your consciences bother you? Don't you feel bad?
Can you still drink knowing that?

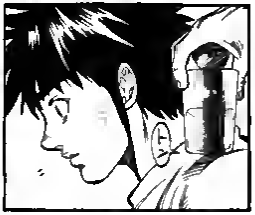

If there's any feeling sad or feeling bad to be done...
I'll do it if our carefully drawn up plans come to nothing, that's when!
Yeah, I can
It's much better to have drink and fun, ya bastard!

We're pros.
Not doing anything until the time is right is a pro's job.

Was he enduring the pain of watching and waiting all along...?
Dad too...

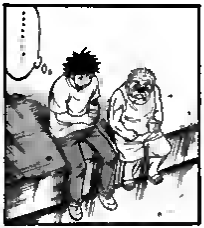
Not doing anything until the time is right is a pro's job.

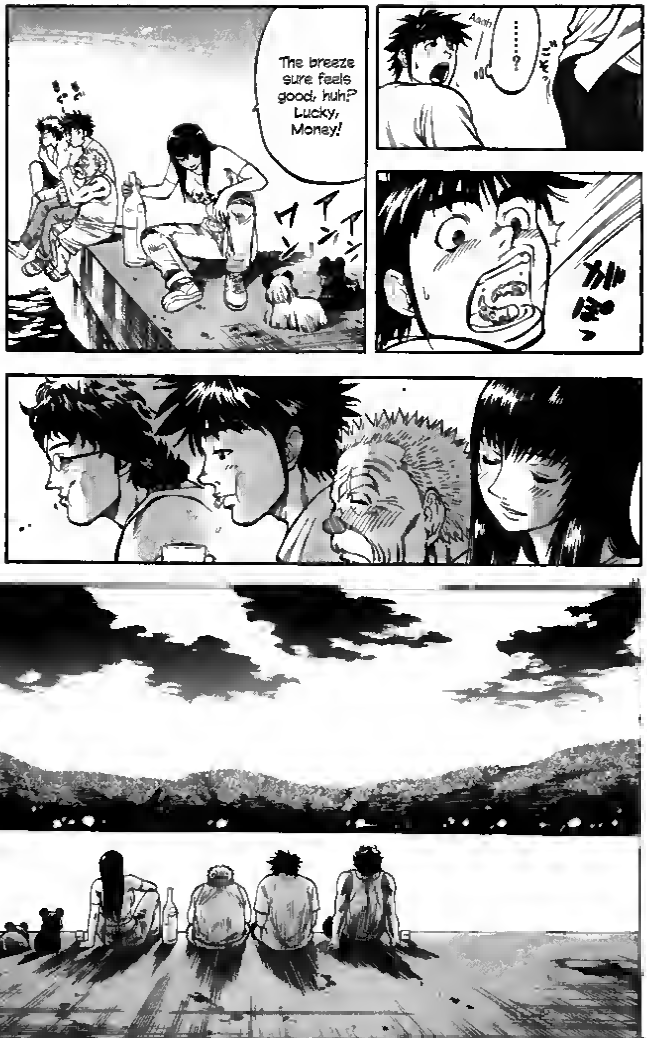




Aaah.

Aaah.




The breeze sure feels good, huh? Lucky, Money!
ワン
アン
アン
Aaah
……？
ガルぼっ

Yes, I heard it straight from the Coast Guard...
Is that true!?
That's impossible...
.....
12
I've never heard of anyone salvaging at spring tide!
Spring tide!
The 14th is two days after the full moon...

*THE HIGHEST TIDE OF THE MONTH

Deliberately aiming for the spring tide when the current is at its fastest and the tide is highest... it's unheard of!
When raising a sunken ship the theory is to wait until neap tide,* when the current is slowest and the tide is lowest
*THE LOWEST TIDE OF THE MONTH
And now they're making things even more compli-cated!?
No matter how many times I ran the simulation, it was impossible to use a crane ship under the Kanmon Bridge...
.....?
13
You may go now
Ah, right
O-okay
Mr Eguchi ?
Ku ku ku...

難破サルヴェージ
ON THE 14TH

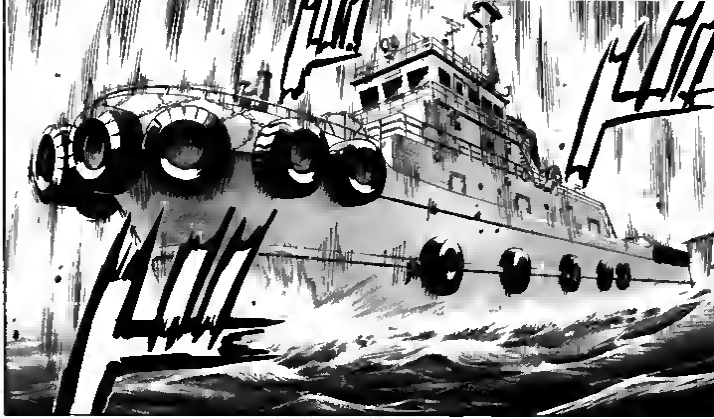
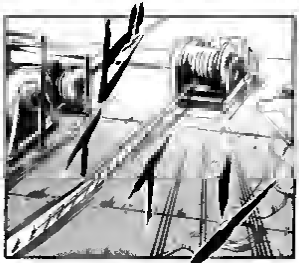
14

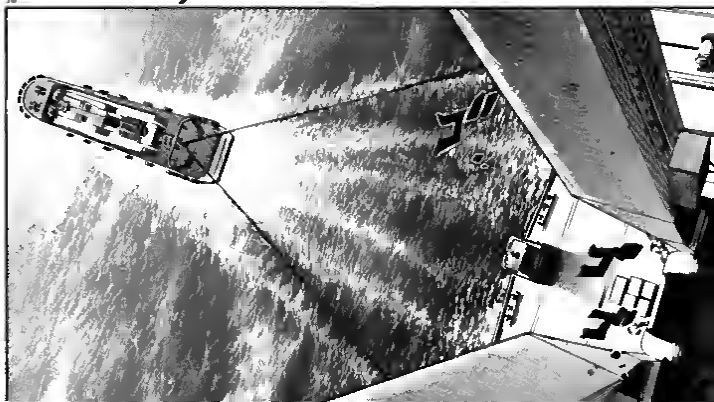
It's time to raise the sunken ship!
How long are you people planning to sleep? Let's get going!

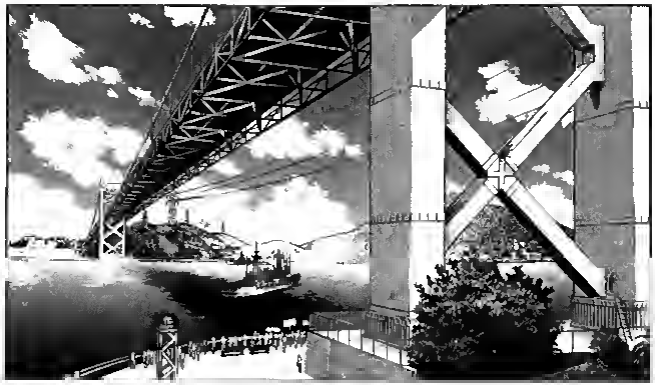
Let's go, bastards!

ふふ…

We loaded it ages ago!
Is all your diving gear on board!?
Alright bastards, take your positions!
URYAAAA!
Tekkai, set sail!




GIVE US BACK OUR SEA!

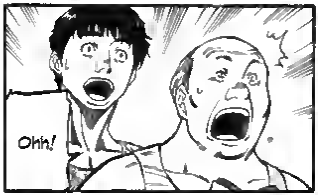
Hey, that's
!
航行封鎖
LIFT THE SHIPPING BAN!

We're going to raise that ship...
Please wait a little longer...

I
promise!

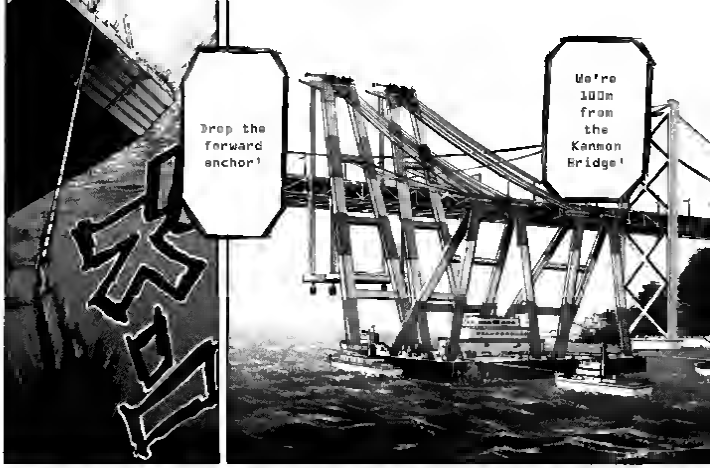
Chapter 21 Sprouted Desire

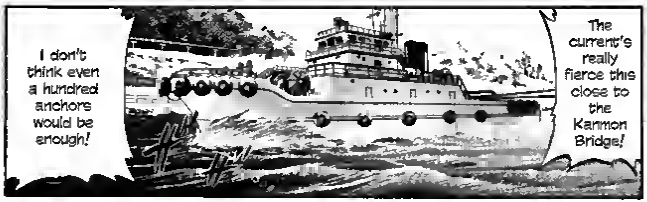
Chapter 21 Sprouted Desire


Ohh!

Can't look!
Huh? What's with all the noise?

A crane ship, at last!


Drop the forward anchor!
We're 100m from the Kanmon Bridge!

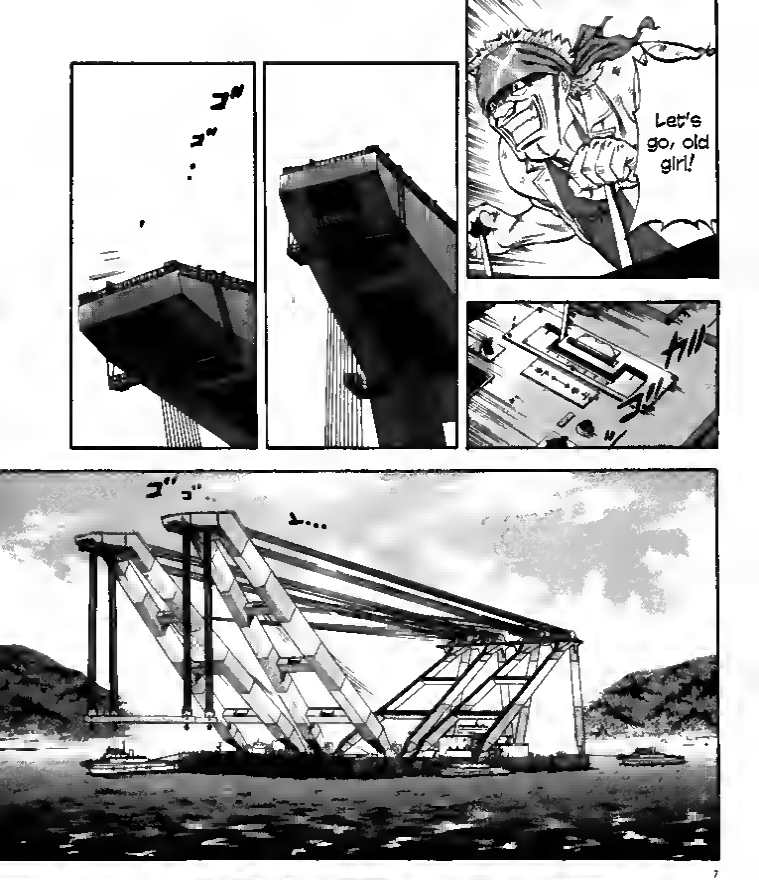

I don't think even a hundred anchors would be enough!
The current's really fierce this close to the Kanmon Bridge!

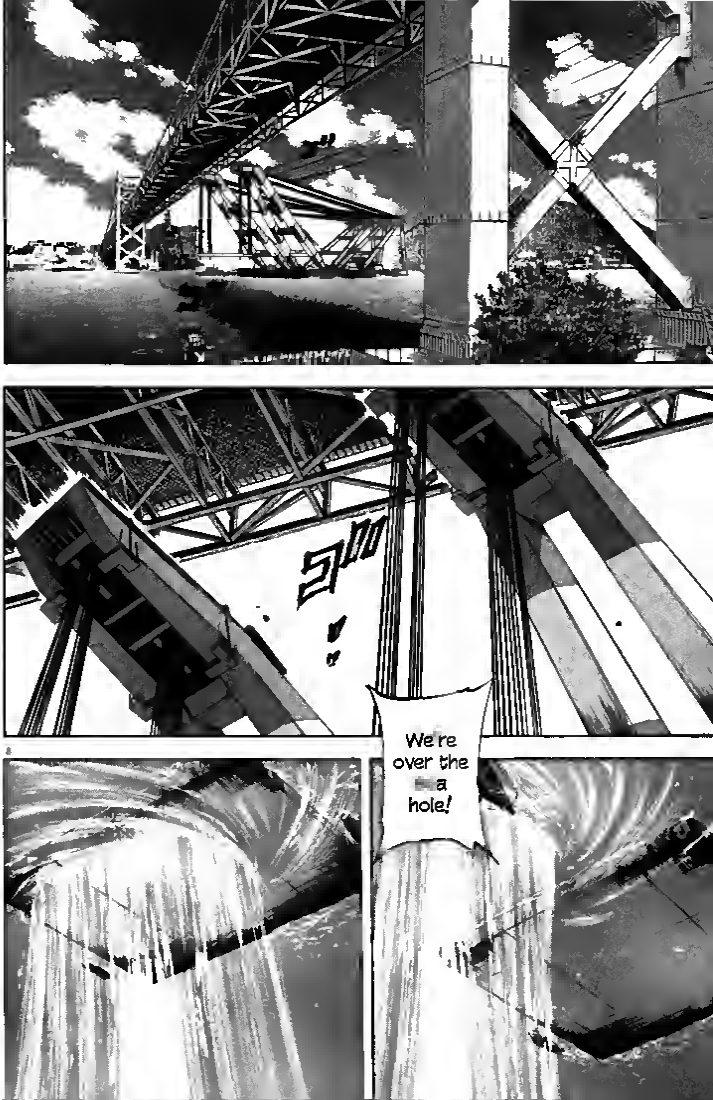
4

Are you sure we can stop the ship, Captain?
I've been all around the world but I've never seen anything this bad before!
Yah! Leave it to me!

*LIT. "THE SECOND" I.E. HIS FATHER'S SUCCESSOR

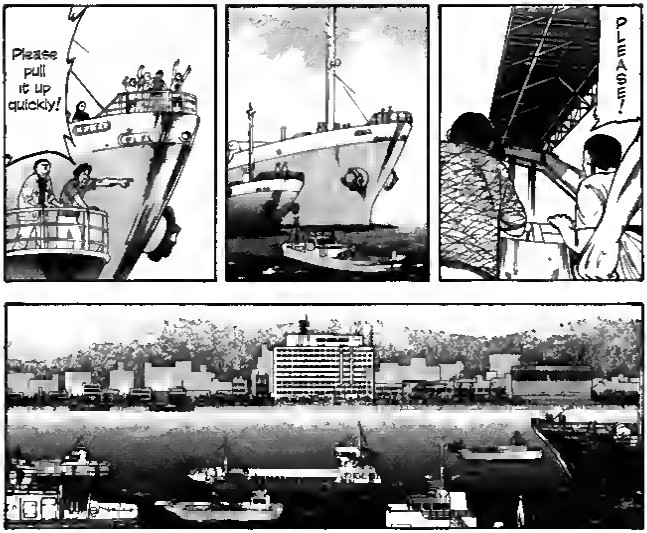
5


Let's go, old girl!
The boom is down!
Let's ram into that sea hole, bastards!


Gulp
We're over the [redacted] a hole!

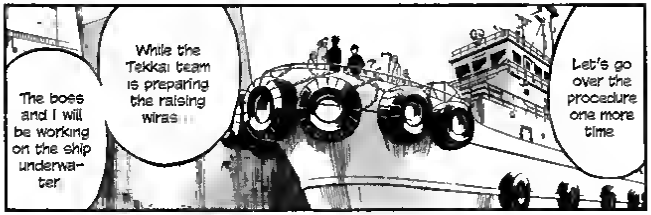
Alright! We've caught the down-flow!
Drop rear anchors on both sides!
FUU

ANCHORAGE COMPLETE!


Please pull it up quickly!
PLEASE!

We're counting on you...
As quickly as possible, for the sake of my career
.....

Nanba!

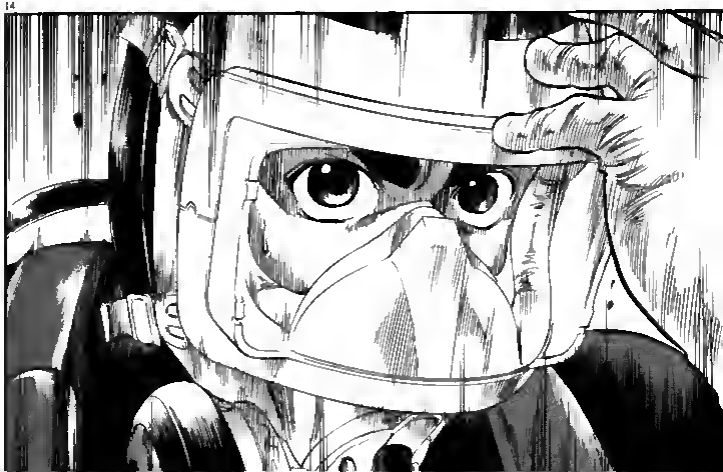

Let's go over the procedure one more time.
While the Tekkai team is preparing the raising wires...
The boss and I will be working on the ship underwater.

It's highly likely that the engine room is flooded with fuel by now. To prevent any oil leaks, we'll seal off all the entrances and anything that might cause trouble.
It's also possible that the cars might collide when we raise the ship, leaking gasoline and setting off a fire. So we'll lock the cars down with wires to stop them shifting.
Okay.

Then tomorrow we'll raise the ship!
Alright. We'll aim for when the current stops and finish all the preparations today.

Do you remember how to weld and seal underwater?
Perfectly!

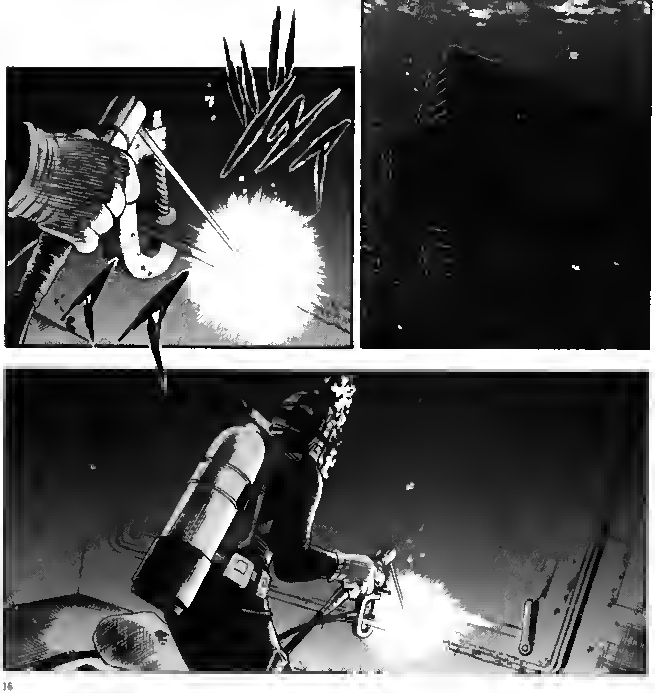
Yeah! Let's show the whole Japan what we've got!
Show us your stuff, successor!
Y-yes!
Please, selvage company!
Please raise it quickly so we can go to sea!



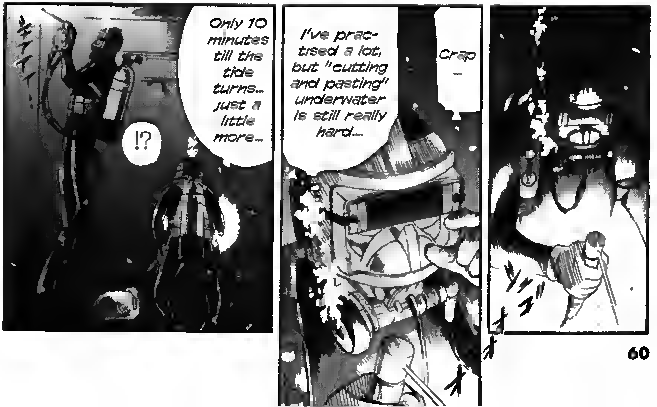
A sea hole, huh...
I see...

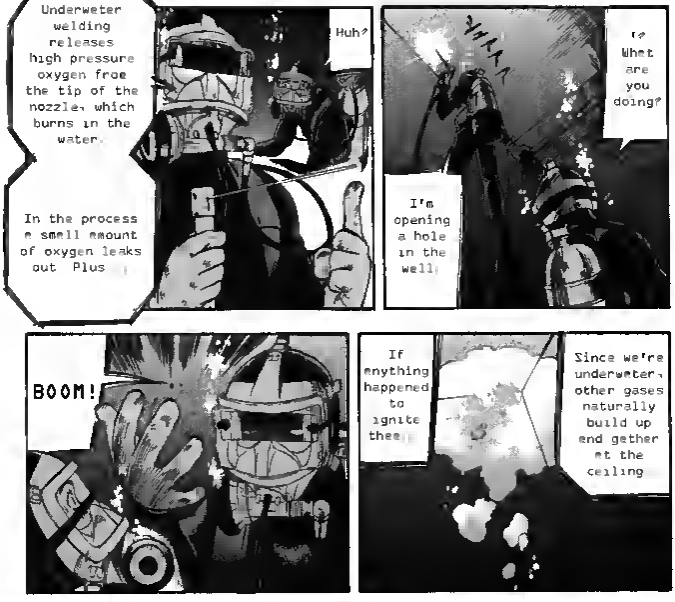
Ah.
Hello, is this the Fishermen's Association?

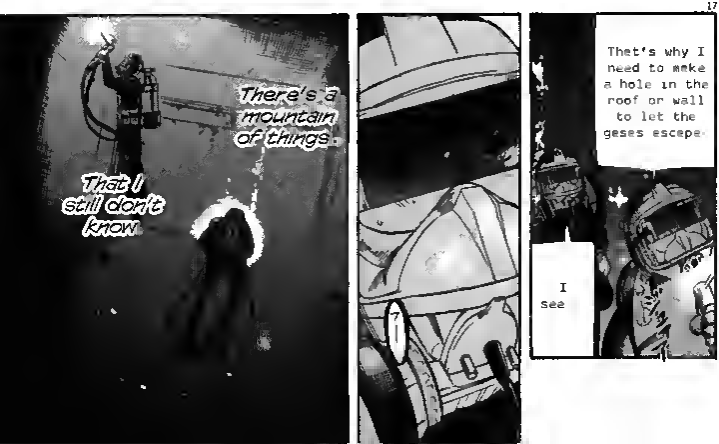
Pretty clever, spotting something like that.
But...

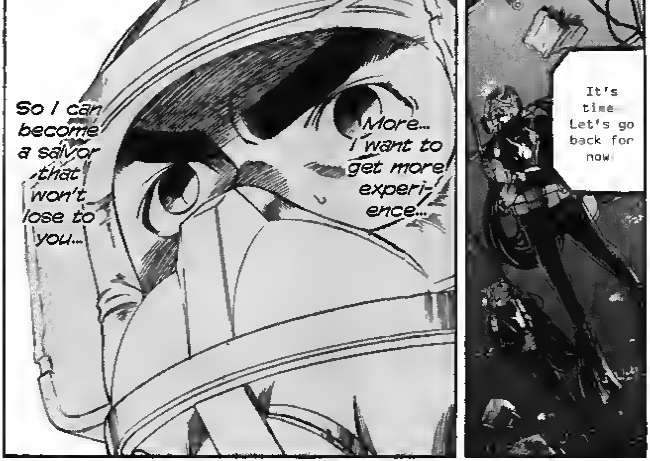


16

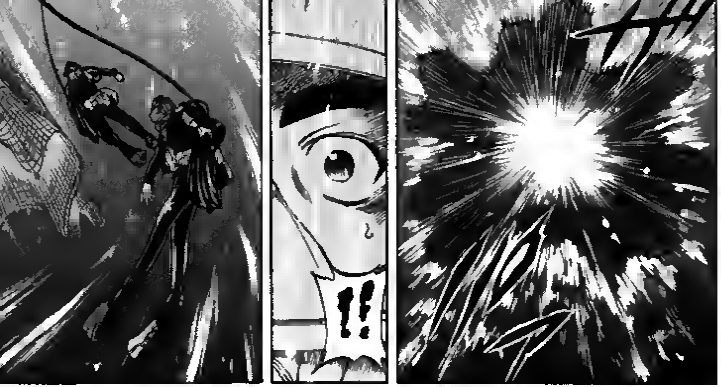

Only 10 minutes till the tide turns... just a little more...
!?
I've practised a lot, but "cutting and pasting" underwater is still really hard...
Crap —


Underwater welding releases high pressure oxygen from the tip of the nozzle, which burns in the water.
In the process a small amount of oxygen leaks out. Plus
Huh?
What are you doing?
I'm opening a hole in the wall.
BOOM!
If anything happened to ignite the
Since we're underwater, other gases naturally build up and gather at the ceiling.


There's a mountain of things
That I still don't know.
?
That's why I need to make a hole in the roof or wall to let the gases escape.
I see


So I can become a salvor that won't lose to you...
More... I want to get more experience...
It's time. Let's go back for now.

So we can become a salvage company that won't lose to anyone!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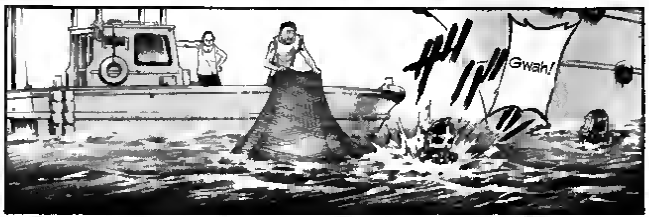
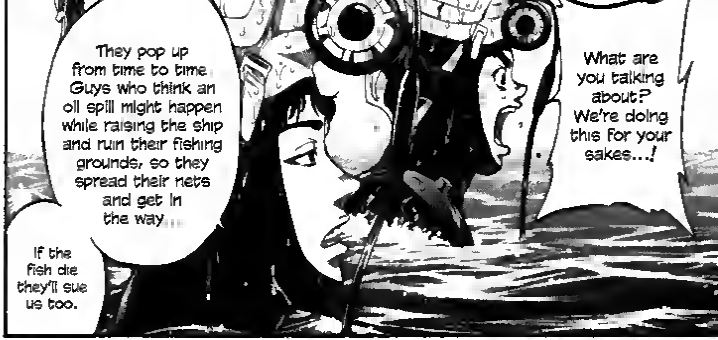
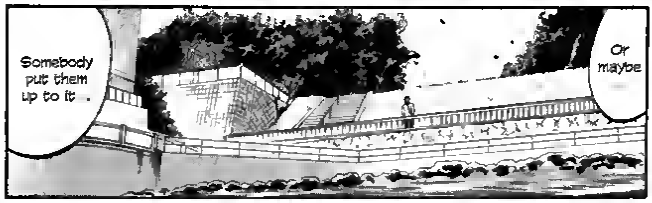

Gwah!

What d'you think you're doing!?
We're in the middle of a raising operation here!
Don't mess up our fishing spot! If we don't catch any fish it'll be your fault!


They pop up from time to time. Guys who think an oil spill might happen while raising the ship and ruin their fishing grounds, so they spread their nets and get in the way...
If the fish die they'll sue us too.
What are you talking about? We're doing this for your sakes...!

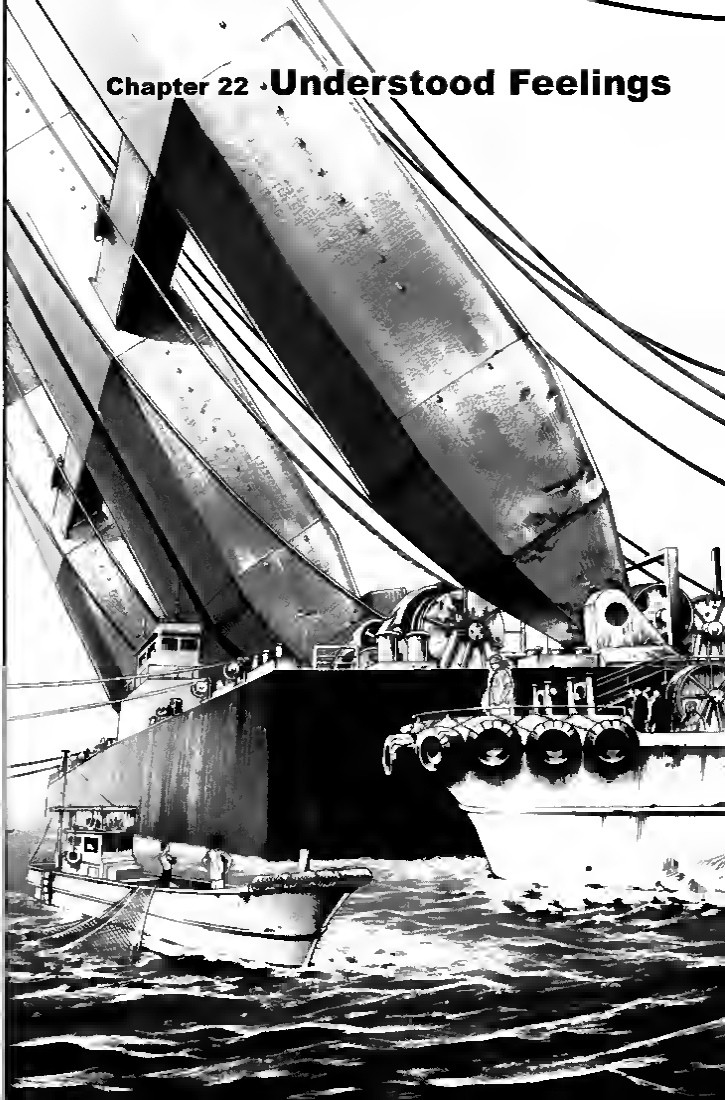

Somebody put them up to it.
Or maybe

Now then...
Show me what you've got, Mr. Nanba!

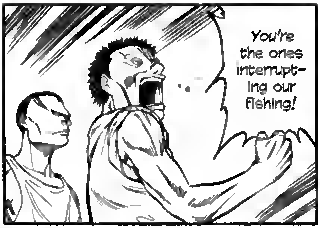
Chapter 22 Understood Feelings

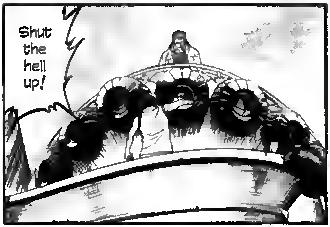
I see... Even I didn't think that far.
Using the sea hole's downward flow to anchor a crane ship even in Kanmon's fast-flowing current...
And now on top of that...
With the boom down so low there's no way Takkai can bring out its full power.
The sunken ship weighs around 2000 tons. If you want to raise it...
But there's still one problem remaining.

Chapter 22 · Understood Feelings



We're going raise the sunken ship now, so get the fuck out of our way!
Hey, dick-heads!


You're the ones interrupting our fishing!

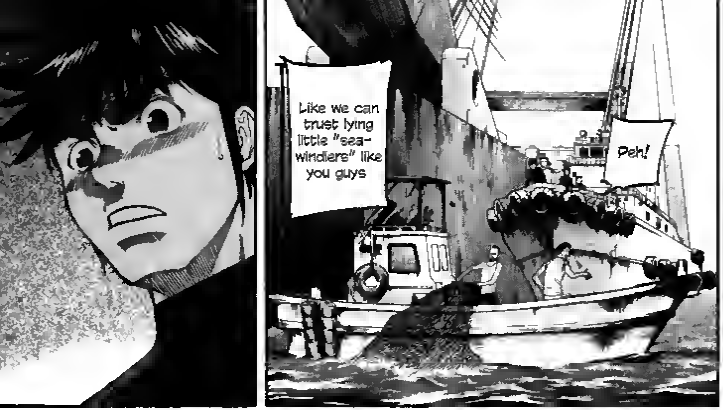

Shut the hell up!

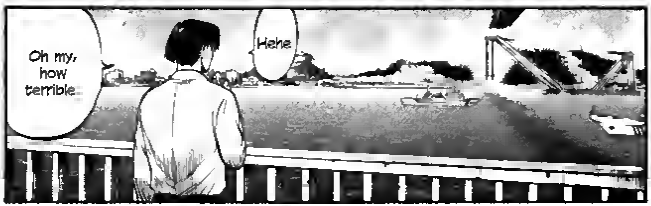
We haven't been able to go fishing for a week because of the shipping ban! We can't make any money .
We know all about it! When you raise the ship the oil will come pouring out, right?
If you kill the fish with an oil spill, we'll be finished!

I promise we'll raise the ship without polluting the ocean!
And we've taken all the other necessary anti-oil precautions!

We've sealed up all the exits from the engine room to prevent any spills!
P... please don't worry!

Please. Trust us!
We'll do a good, clean job!


Like we can trust lying little "sea-swindlers" like you guys
Peh!


Oh my, how terrible...
Hehe

Nanba-kun.
Nobody really thinks you can raise that ship.

We got a phone call saying there might be an oil spill when the ship comes up, so they got all steamed up and ran out.
Where are Toshi and Nabe?
Well, yeah.
But chief, our lives are on the line here! We can't just let those salvage companies do whatever they like!
Man, those guys are so rash.
Yeah!

Asso-
ciation
chief!
Pull your
boats out of
the Kanmon
straits right
now!

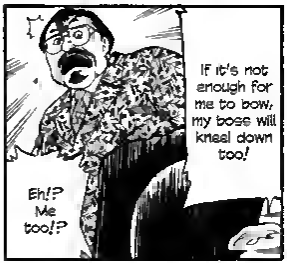
Well, well...
if it isn't
Mr. Kaizai
of the Coast
Guard, how
unexpected.
Whatever
brings
you
here?
This is
urgent, I
tell you!
Why
did I
have to
come
too?

Yeah! Yeah!
First off, this only happened because the Coast Guard didn't keep a proper look-out!

Making trouble!? We're desperate too!
Japan's situation is getting worse because you guys are out there making trouble!

You can blame us all want afterwards!
Eek!

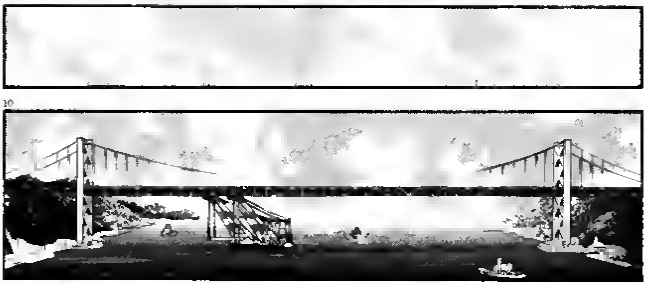
You haven't changed since we were kids, Naoya!
When you're begging for a favor you should at least go on your knees!
Acting like you're always right!


If it's not enough for me to bow, my boss will kneel down too!
Eh!? Me too!?

Do it now!
O... Okay!

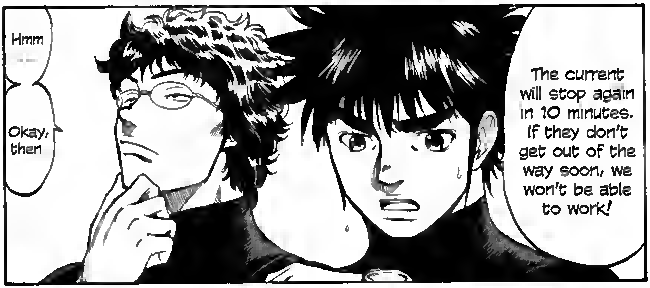
No .. Tadashi! We need your help!
Please, chief!

FOR THE SAKE OF JAPAN!



It's been 6 hours 2 minutes since we came up.
HAHAHA
RAH!
Stop it, Cap'n!

This is getting us nowhere!
Just bring all on at once, ya bastards!


Hmm
Okay, then
The current will stop again in 10 minutes. If they don't get out of the way soon, we won't be able to work!

11

Aaah! Our reputation will get even worse.
I'll go help the captain break a few arms!
YEAH!

Aha ha...

Oohh, it's the boss!
And the rest of the gang!

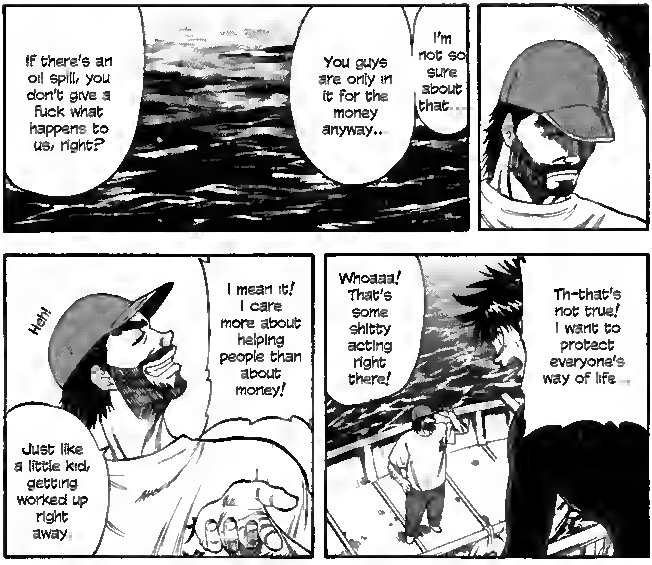
Oh, poor Mr. Nanba... Things have gotten even worse!
Ku
Ku
Ku

I hear you guys are from Nanba Salvage!
Which one of you is the boss!?
!?
Err, that would be me...

Especially me!
My coworkers are all seasoned experts so we'll be fine!
I...I might still be young, but...

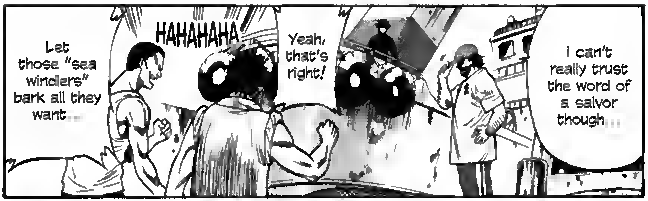
That Kaizai, he gave the job to some kid!?
Are you kidding me?

GAAH!


If there's an oil spill, you don't give a fuck what happens to us, right?
You guys are only in it for the money anyway..
I'm not so sure about that...
Heh!
I mean it! I care more about helping people than about money!
Just like a little kid, getting worked up right away.
Whoaaa! That's some shitty acting right there!
Th-that's not true! I want to protect everyone's way of life...

Well EXCUSE me for being young!

If I say I'm going to save everyone,
I may be a kid but I'm still a pro salvor!
Then that's exactly what I'm gonna do, dammit!


Let those "sea wimblers" bark all they want...
HAHAHAHA
Yeah, that's right!
I can't really trust the word of a salvor though...

Shut up! You guys shut the fuck up!

16

You've got spirit, just like him...
You're his son, aren't you?

Nanba Kanji...

But...
There was one salvor that I could believe in...

This sea...I entrust it to you.
But, if you make even the slightest mistake you'll pay 3 times over!

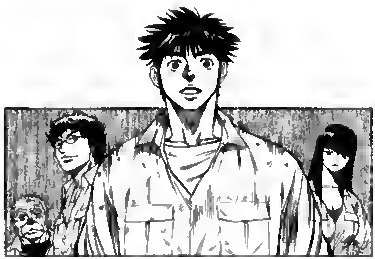
You can't trust ..
Chief !?

Stop blabbering and start raising those nets!
Shut up! Got a problem !?

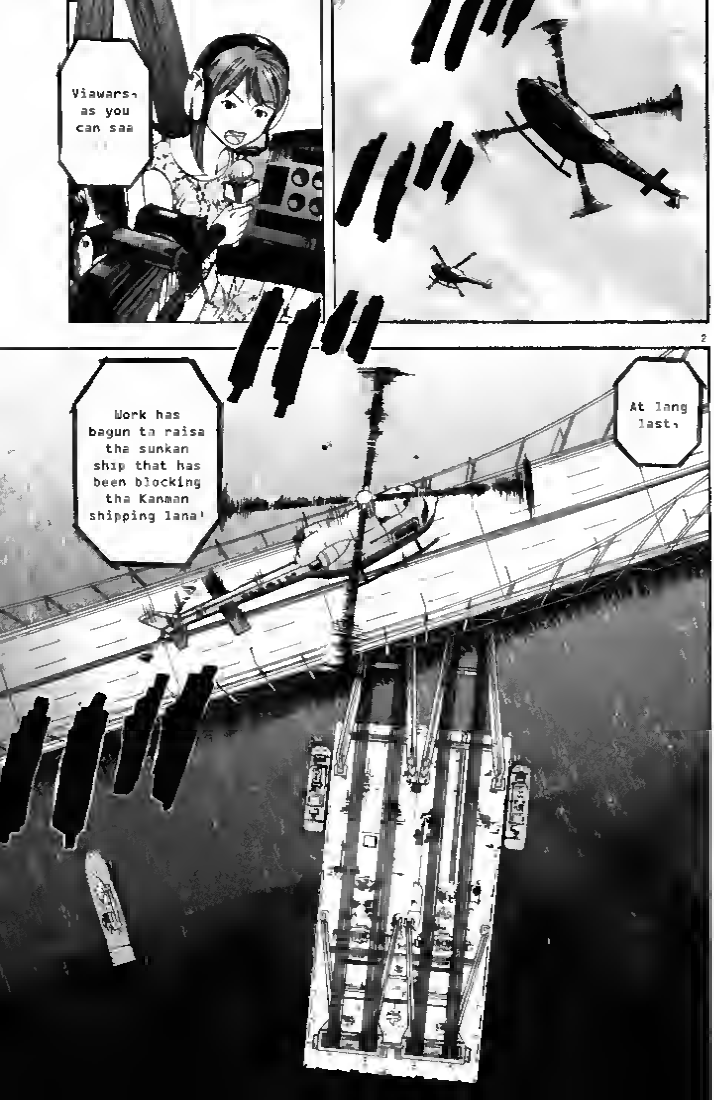
We'll circle the area and watch out for any spills!
If you're that worried then prepare some dis-perser and help protect the sea!
O... Okay!
大漁
You went and turned those troublemakers into our allies
Heh
Not bad at all, Mr. Successor
Right?
Wh- What the hell?

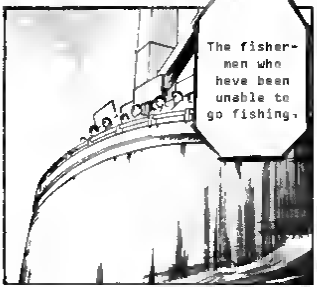
Why isn't anything going according to my calculations?
How did they get out of that?
NANBAAA!
19
You helped me out again.
Dad...
Bon! The current's stopped!
Yeah!

For your sake as well...
I'll make this salvage a success!



Chapter 23 Preparing the Trump Card


Viawars, as you can saa
2
Work has bagun ta raisa tha sunkan ship that has been blocking tha Kanaan shipping lana!
At lang last,

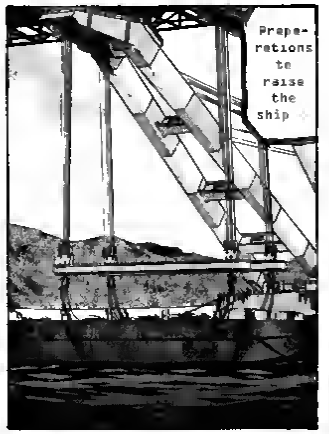

The fishermen who heve been unable to go fishing,

Watched by the hundreds of seilors who heve been trapped here for the pest week,

All the people in Japen effected by rising prices
And

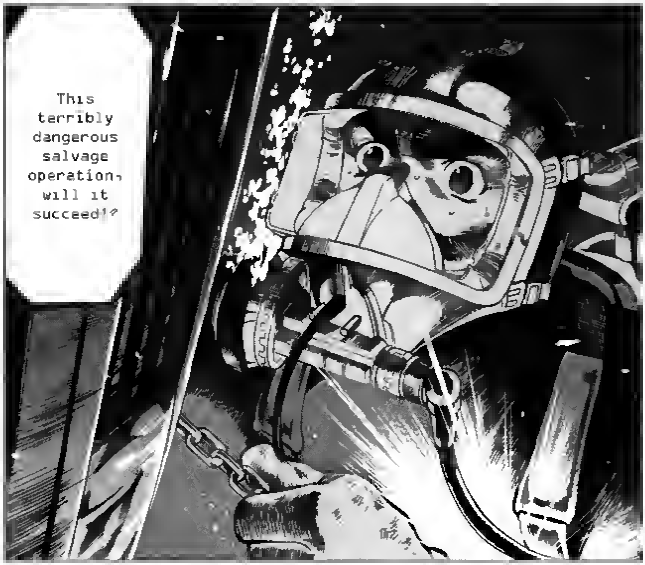
3

Are steedily under wey'


Prepe-rations te raise the ship

This operation, on which the fate of Japan's economy relies...
What all is said and done...

4

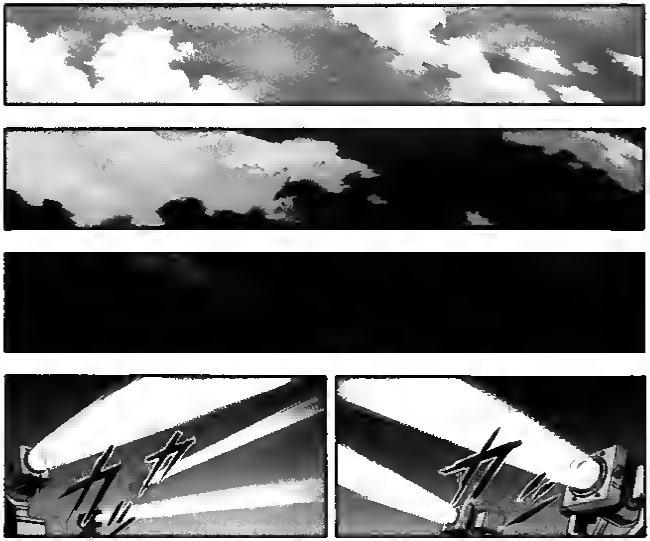

This terribly dangerous salvage operation, will it succeed!?

Be sure to fix the cables firmly!
Otherwise you'll get another rain of cars on your head!

I just can't get used to this...
I want to finish this quickly...

Gah, don't put that thought in my head! You'll make my hands shaky!
Nye he he

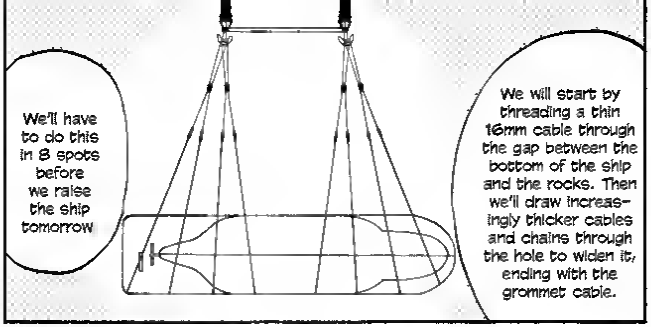
We've got to raise this ship quickly...
Yeah...


ガッ
ガッ

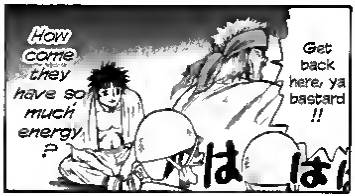
As I expected we'll be working all night again today.
Aaah, this is so bad for my skin. I can't take a bath either!
Bon, are you okay?
.....
Huh...?
It's your first big job, you must be tired.
N...No way! I'm an ex-Coast Guard diver, we're made of tough stuff! Hahahaha...

All the cables are set!
Alright!
Everything we need for the raising is ready!

Normally we would attach the cables singly, but...
O-okay
Right. Let's go over the types of cable we're going to use and how we are going to attach them, one more time.
Using grommet cable. It's hella expensive though...
This time we're going to attach them in a ring shape.
By doubling up the cables...
We can save effort by threading two cables at one time...
And the increase in strength and endurance will be tremendous!
ぐっ
ぐっ

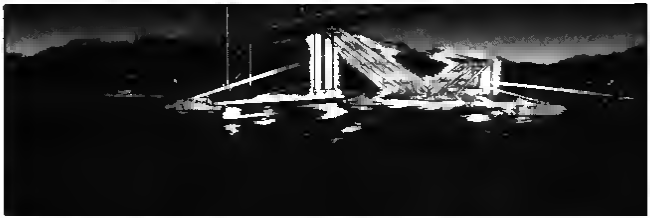

We'll have to do this in 8 spots before we raise the ship tomorrow
We will start by threading a thin 16mm cable through the gap between the bottom of the ship and the rocks. Then we'll draw increasingly thicker cables and chains through the hole to widen it, ending with the grommet cable.

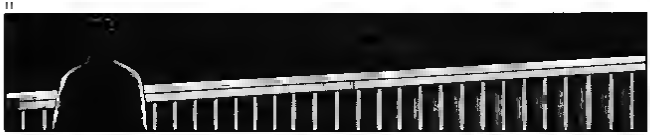
おぉ…!!
Yup! That's the gist of it!
We're dealing with a 2000 ton beast here. We can't be too careful!


How come they have so much energy?
Get back here, ya bastard!!
はぁ はぁ

Hands off, man! What'll you do if your salvage master gets hurt?
You've gotten pretty good at giving orders, eh?
Oh?
SWISH
HA HA HA HA

With such a rough schedule...





Uuuuuu

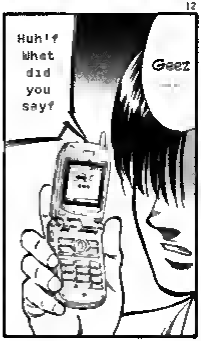
Mr. Eguchi! Where are you!?
Yes?

We don't know what to do without you
The cargo ship that got wrecked off Genkai is leaking heavy oil!

12

He-

Hello? Hello!?
He-llo?
通話中

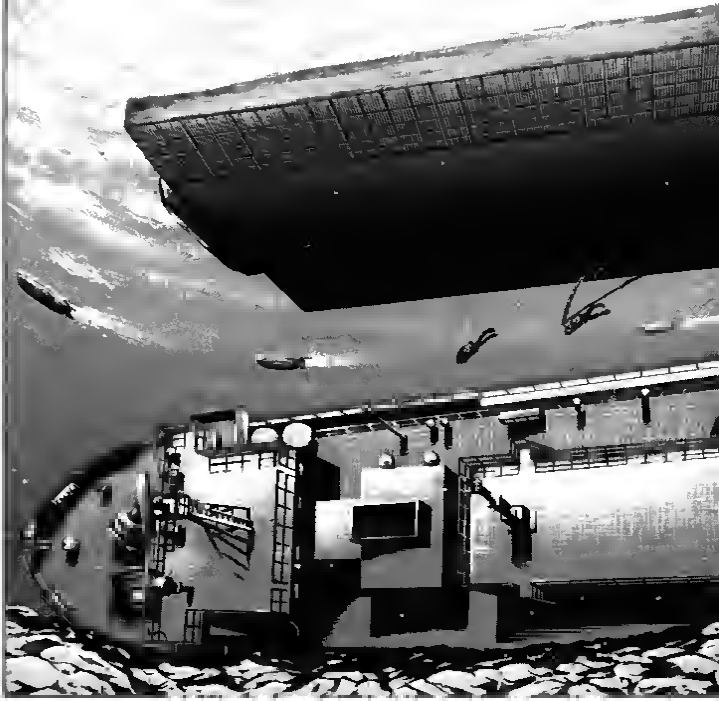

Huh!? What did you say?
Geez

...Fine.
Nothing but idiots, all of them.
If it's not one, it's the other.
I'm going to watch this till the end.
Watch these people who don't their place fall...
And watch the whole Japan tear them to pieces!

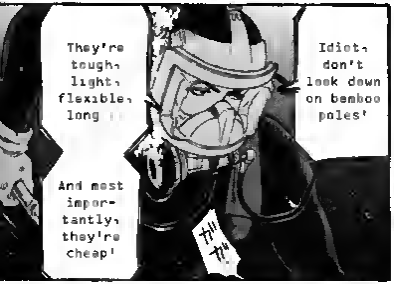
It's time! The current's stopped!
Right-ho, let's go stick the hooks in the fish!
Yeah!

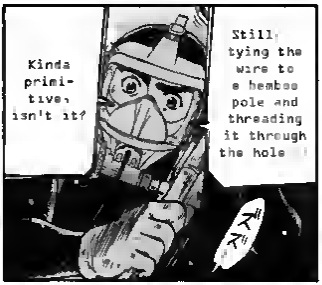
C-of course I am!
Hey, hey, you okay?
Ah
Bon, don't force yourself. Leave it to Sawa-chan...
If you mess up, all our hard work will go to waste, ya know!
We won't let you get away with that!
It won't be funny if you kill the fish with an oil spill!
15
You guys ...
I'm fine
What are you staggering about for?
Are you really up to it?

I told you ...
I'm fine!
Sawa-chan, take care of Bon!
That should keep him on his toes!
I wasn't planning on doing any such thing, though...
He's even more fun to tease than Kanji!
Ha ha ha!

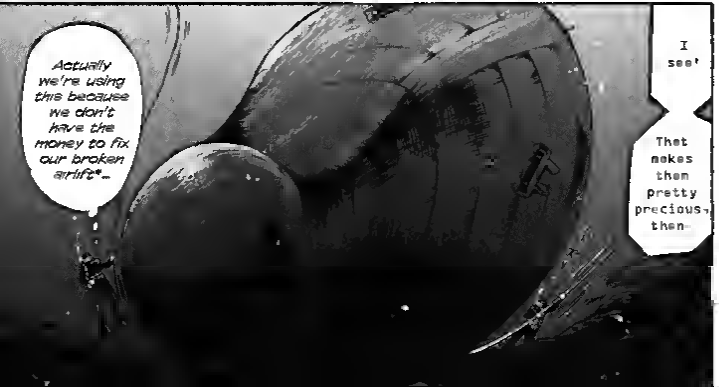


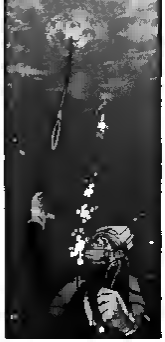
Right!
Let's do it like I said. Go round to the other side of the ship.





*A DREDGING DEVICE FOR SUCKING UP MUD AND SEDIMENT ON THE SEA BED


Actually we're using this because we don't have the money to fix our broken airlift*...
I see!
That makes them pretty precious, then-

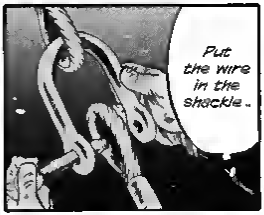


OK!

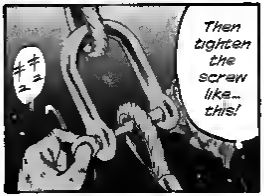
Captain send down the next wire!
Okey, stop pulling!

Leave it to me!
Boss, fix the shackle the way I taught you!

Finished!

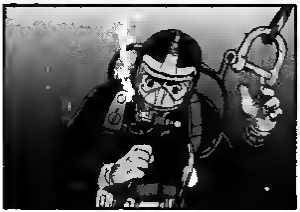

Put the wire in the shackle.

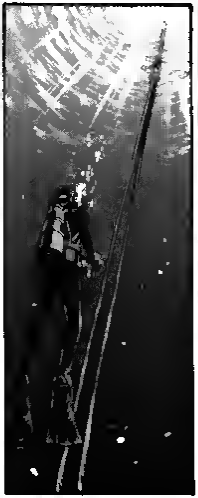
!?


Then tighten the screw like... this!

Oh... I see.
I told you, wind some wire around to fix it in place! This is not an option!
At this rate the pan might fall out and the wire might come out of the sheckle!
You call this finished!?
I... I'm fine!
If you're too tired to think, you'll only get in my way! Go home and sleep!
20
I won't make the same mistake again!
No time to lose, let's do the next one!

21





Chapter 24 Once in a Lifetime Moment

WA GA NA WA UMISHI CHAPTER 24
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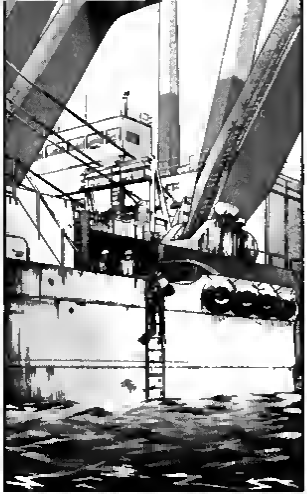


Any time now...

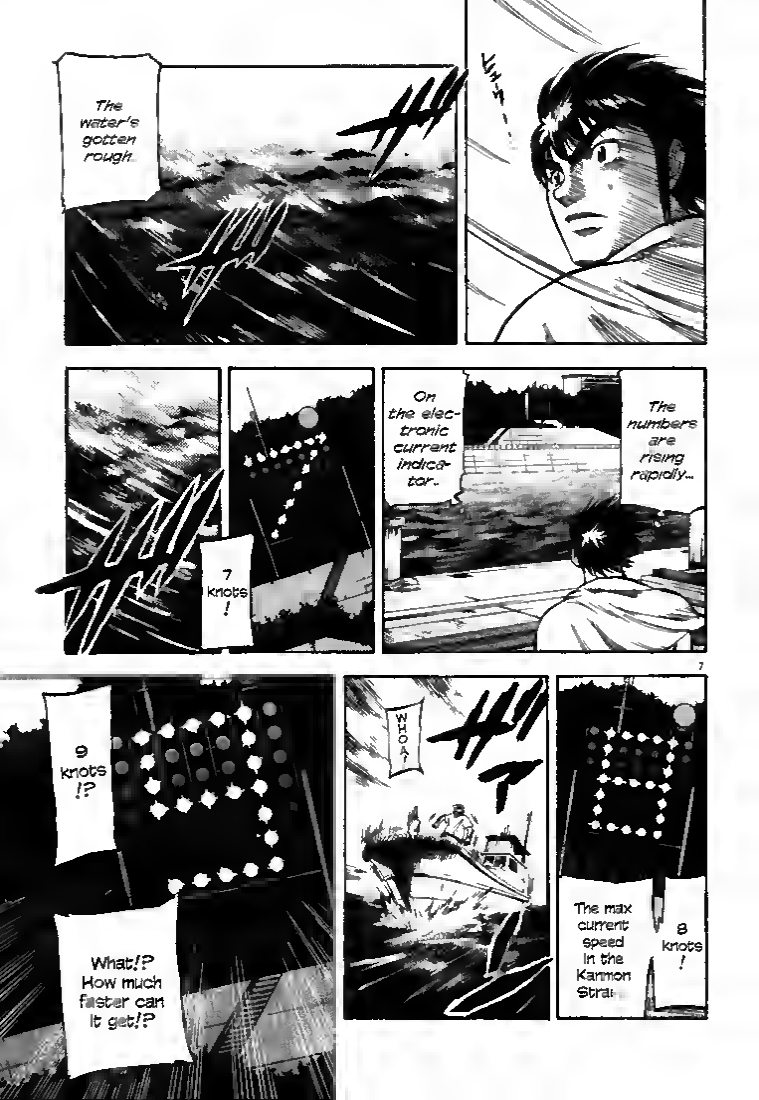
Where are you going?
Mr Kaizaki
They're done fixing the cables to the sunken ship!

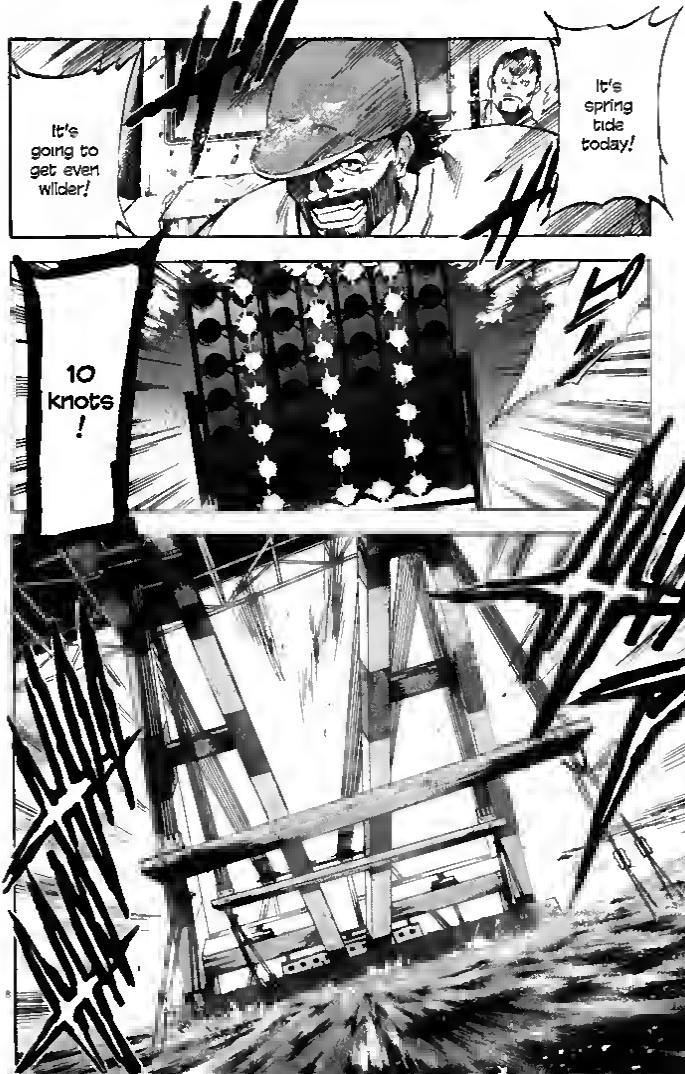
Haven't they pulled it up yet?
O o h

I'm ready when you are, ya bastards!
ALRIGHT!

It's showtime!
The next time the current stops...

This is...the moment we put our lives on the line!
We can't afford to fail. It's a big job with a huge amount of money at stake....
It feels like sparks would fly if I touched anyone...
The air is charged...


The water's gotten rough.
Uhm!
7 knots!
On the electronic current indicator.
The numbers are rising rapidly...
9 knots!?
What!? How much faster can it get!?
Whoa!
The max current speed in the Kanmon Strait
8 knots!


It's spring tide today!
It's going to get even wilder!
10 knots!

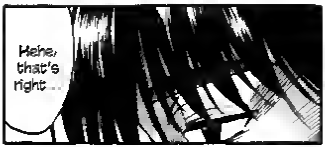
Watch the tension in the cables!
Even in the sea hole it feels like we're going to get blown away!
My body feels like it's falling apart!
Is it fatigue? Nervousness?
In these condi-tions!?
Can we really do it...

DON'T GIVE IN!

Have you been here since yesterday?
Eguchi!

Ow Ow Ow
Indeed
Mr. Kaizaki, Mr.Niwa, You couldn't relax either, could you?
I couldn't tear my eyes away from such an interesting show

The strength of the current and the height of the water are both at their highest. It's a terrible day for salvaging
Yeah Today is spring tide, after all
Doesn't it look like the current is going to carry it off!?
H-hey, that crane ship!


Hehe, that's right...

I knew we shouldn't have left it to those kids!
Then why did those Namba Salvage guys pick today?
おお
お

snf...

!?
What is it!?
.....

12

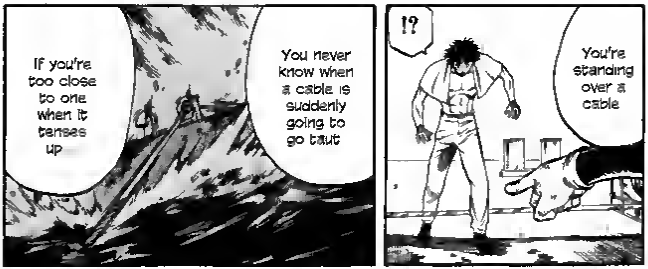
Such a risky gamble... are they serious!?
Some thing like that...

No...
I see...

11.28
4 hours since the current last stopped.
The current has slowed down to 6 knots.

13

You're going to dive and check how the wreck is doing, right?
I'll come too
Okay, then

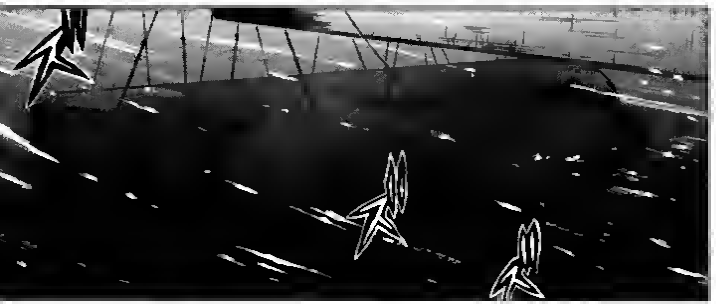

If you're too close to one when it tenses up
You never know when a cable is suddenly going to go taut
!?
You're standing over a cable

You'll be torn in two!

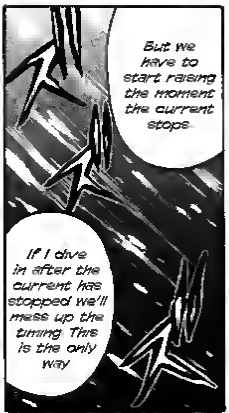
Ah!
I already warned you about that! I don't have the time
To babysit a forgetful idiot like you Sit still!

Buddy ?
We learned that when you're diving you should always have a buddy with you!
But
Unlike you Coast Guards, we salvors don't have a concept like that.
Ha!
If you can do that you'll be a first-rate salvor.
Wipe your own ass with your own hand.
And if you can't. .

You'll just die.



Even I would be in trouble...
If this was the peak 10 knots...

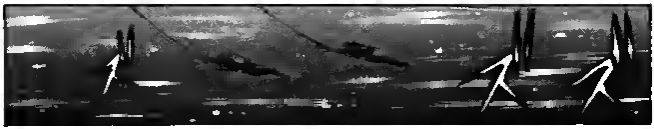

But we have to start raising the moment the current stops.
If I dive in after the current has stopped we'll mess up the timing. This is the only way

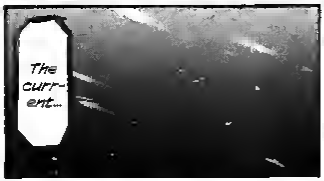
Even if it's not as fast as before, this is still pretty strong...

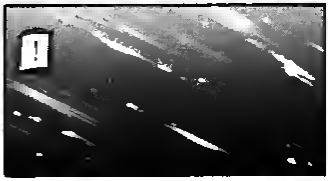
If that happened, I'd be there to support you!

In addition to wiping his own ass...
It's the boss's job to wipe his employees' asses too!

Suit yourself!




The curr-ent...


!

It's slowed down!

Okay, Captain!
Start raising the ship!
Yeaaah! Let's go!

11:25 AM
No matter how you look at it, this is impossible!
Doing any work when the current is this rough at spring tide...!
And then there's that crane ship and the Kanmon Bridge...
What will we do if it bumps into the bridge!?
But...
With the boom down so low, it can't bring out its full power.
!!
To raise the sunken ship they'll have to increase the angle...
No .. If they do that...

Chapter 25 Last-minute Strategy

Chapter 25 Last-minute Strategy

!?
If they destroy the bridge, forget my career, we'll all go to jail!
S-stop them, Mr. Kaizai!
Right now those guys are doing everything according to plan
3
The best thing we can do right now...
Is believe in them!
They're the ones who best understand how dangerous the situation is
But, even so they're carrying out the job without giving up.
We entrusted everything to them, we can't stop them now!

WA GA NA WA UMISHI CHAPTER 25
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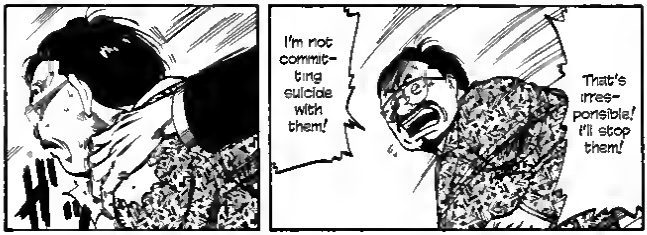
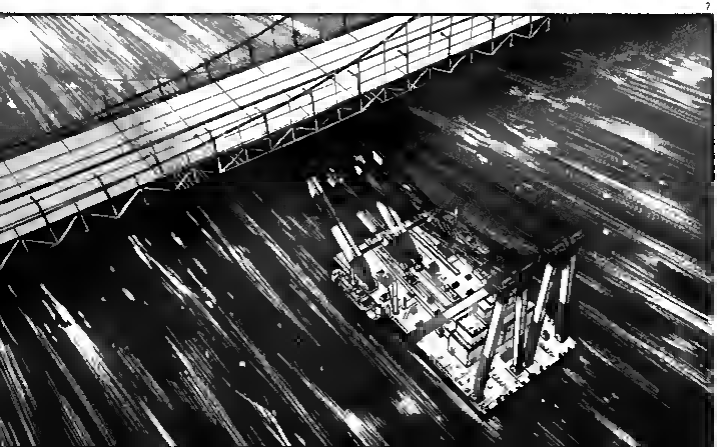


"Right now", I said.
S-see? We should stop them!
As you said, it would be suicide to salvage right now.
H-hey. You've been out of it for a while...
But...
If they're aiming for what I think they are...
Or...
Aim!?
What are you talking about?
Another person dived in...

That means when they judge that the time is right... In other words...
Both of them jumped into the water when the current was still flowing...
6
The next time the current stops...
They're going to go for it!

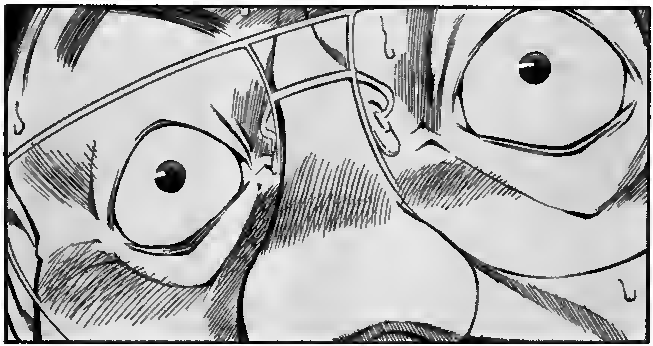
Come!

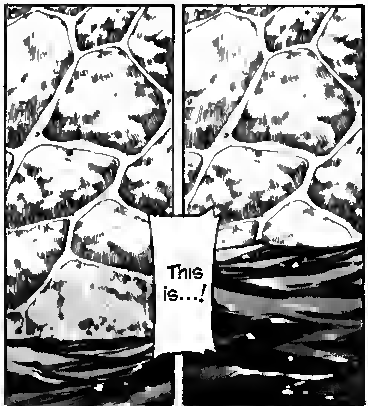
Come on, come on, come on already!

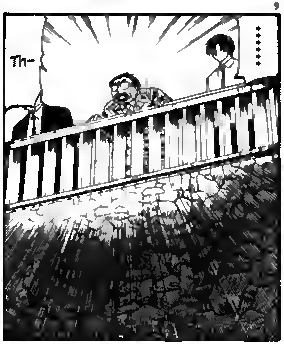


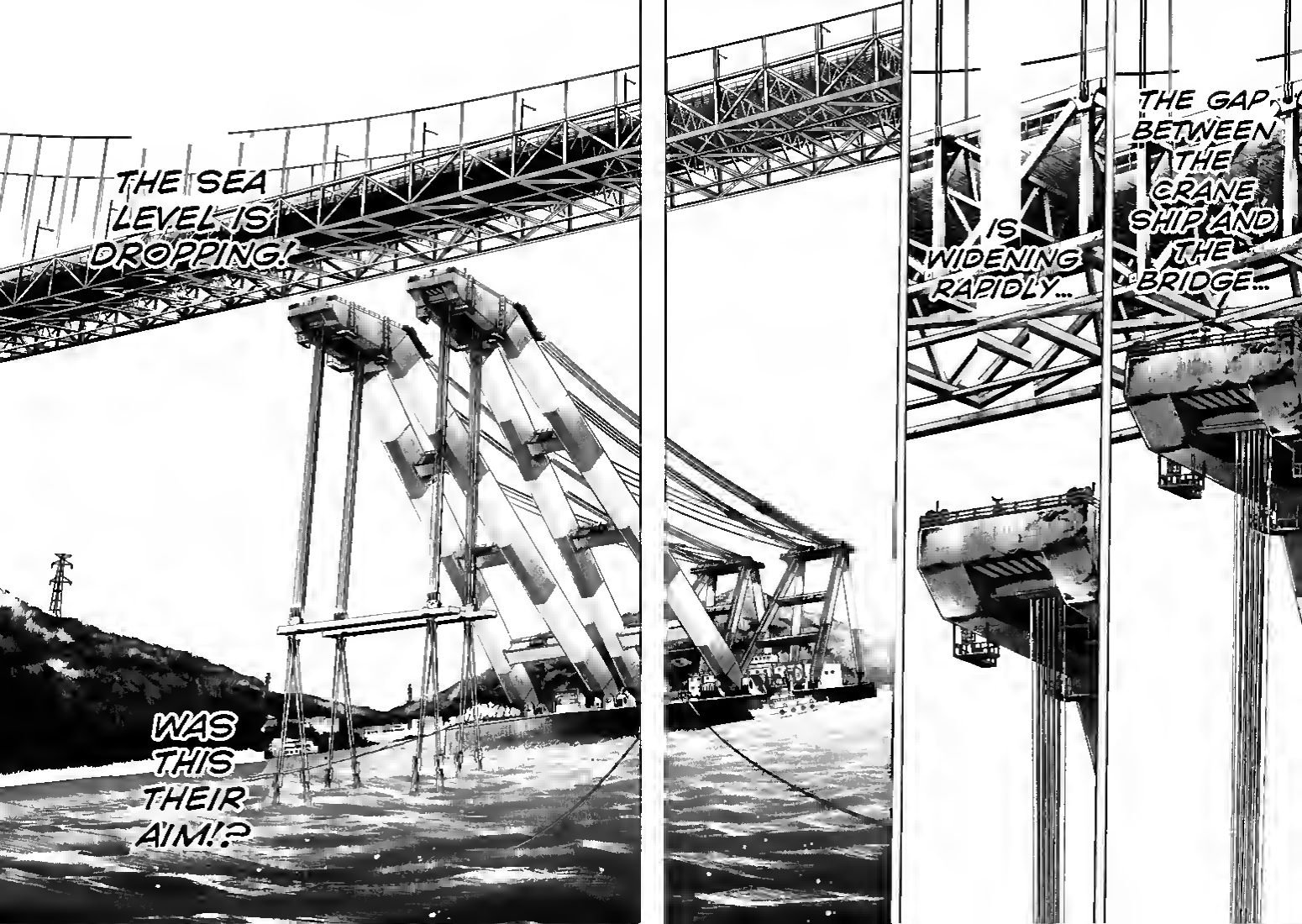
12:20 PM
Eguchi
What are those guys aiming for
.....
The current has slowed down

…!?
What's the matter with you two!?
Huh!?




This is…!


Th-
……


THE SEA LEVEL IS DROPPING!
WAS THIS THEIR AIM!?
THE GAP BETWEEN THE CRANE SHIP AND THE BRIDGE...
IS WIDENING RAPIDLY...

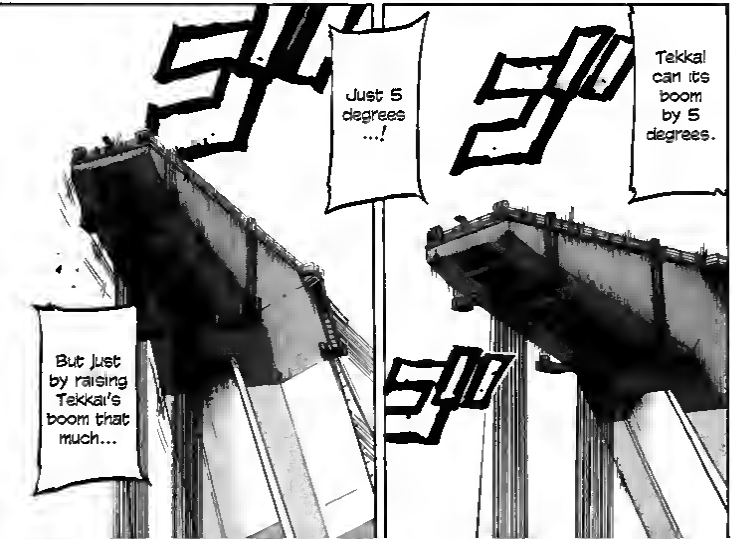
The sea level is at its lowest!
The current has stopped!
Go lower, ya bastard!
Yeah! Yeah!

12

YEAAAH!
Start raising the ship!
Okay Captain!

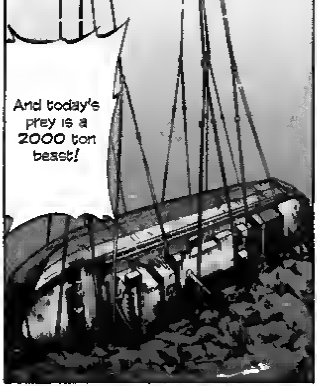
5m

During spring tide, the difference between the sea levels at high tide and low tide is 8m
Using that difference...

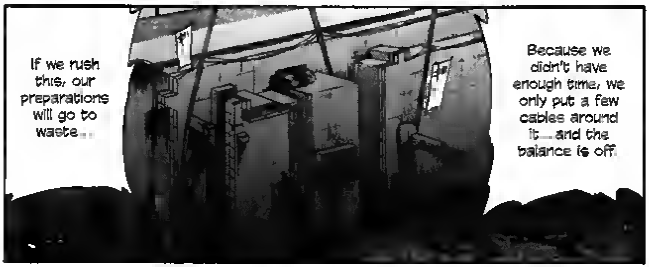

Tekkal can it's boom by 5 degrees.
Just 5 degrees ...!
But just by raising Tekkal's boom that much...
5m

That's enough power to raise almost 500 cars!
It gives it the power to raise an additional 800 tons!

The cables have caught!
Go for it, captain!

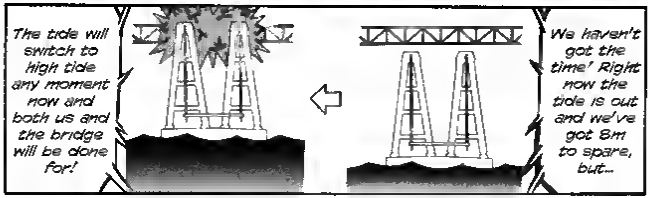

And today's prey is a 2000 ton beast!

The hasty fisherman loses his catch!
Slow down, kids!

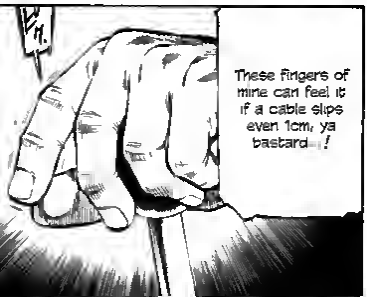

If we rush this, our preparations will go to waste...
Because we didn't have enough time, we only put a few cables around it...and the balance is off.

It's best to take our time and raise it slowly!
And our catch will get away!

What do you think we're down here for!? We're here to be your eyes underwater and check the ship's balance and condition for you
You stupid old fool, have you gone senile!?


The tide will switch to high tide any moment now and both us and the bridge will be done for!
We haven't got the time! Right now the tide is out and we've got 8m to spare, but...

Go back and pick up a girl in a bar and die on top of her!
If you don't think you can raise it quickly, pull out now!

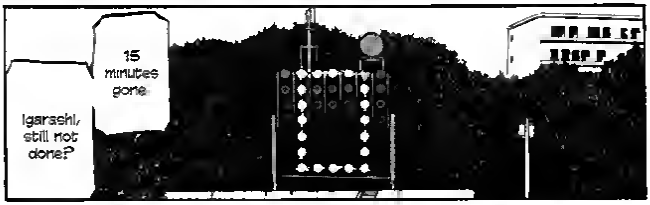

These fingers of mine can feel it if a cable slips even 1cm, ya bastard...!

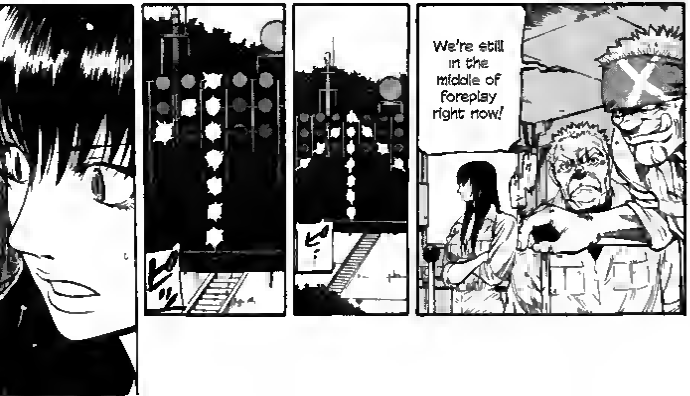
Why, you little... when you get up here I'mma smack you around with Tekkai's boom...

And if I'm going to die anywhere,
It's going to be on top of this old girl, dammit!

We're working as a team. If we can't depend on him and work together, a big job like this will never succeed!
Should you have riled him up like that? The ship is really creaking!

With that old guy, everything will be fine!


15 minutes gone
Igarashi, still not done?


We're still in the middle of foreplay right now!

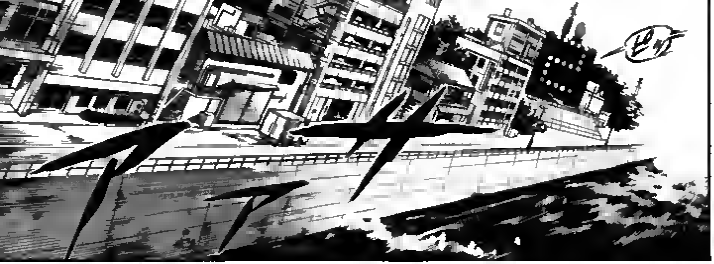
No! The tide is turning!
20
!!
It's off the ground!

Chapter 26 The Final Barrier

It's off the ground!
!

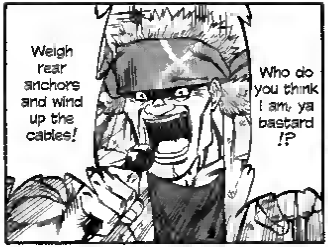
It's up!?
It's up!

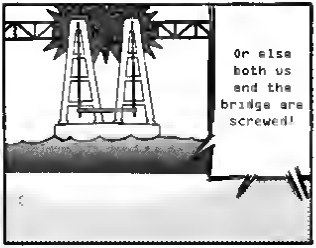
I know, that, ya bastard!
It's floating, Igarashi!

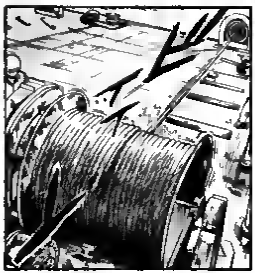


We've got to drag the ship from under the Kennon bridge before the straits fill up again!
We don't have time to cheer. The tide's turning!

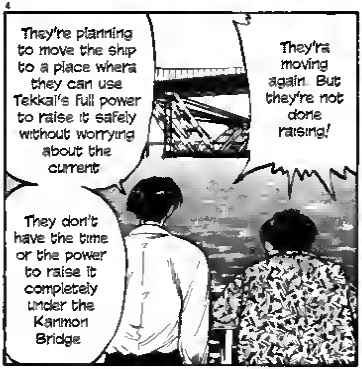
3

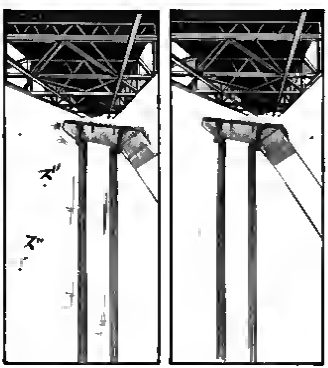

Weigh rear anchors and wind up the cables!
Who do you think I am, ya bastard!?

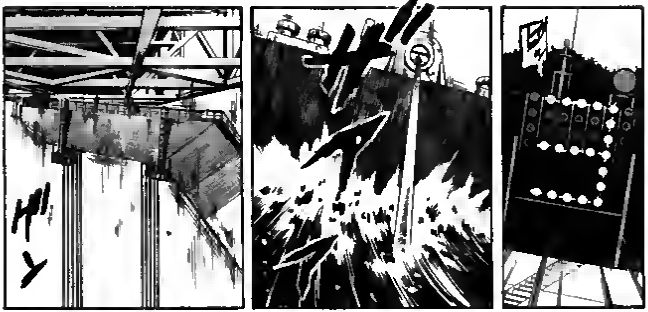

Or else both us and the bridge are screwed!



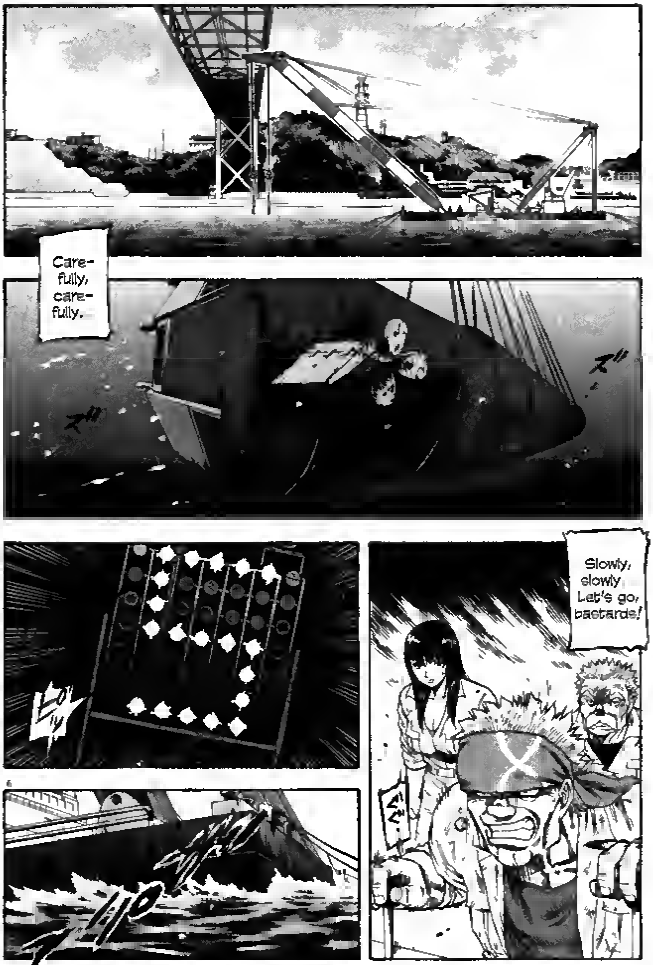
Wind up the cables and retreat!
We're getting out of here, bastards!


They're planning to move the ship to a place where they can use Tekkai's full power to raise it safely without worrying about the current
They're moving again. But they're not done raising!
They don't have the time or the power to raise it completely under the Karimon Bridge

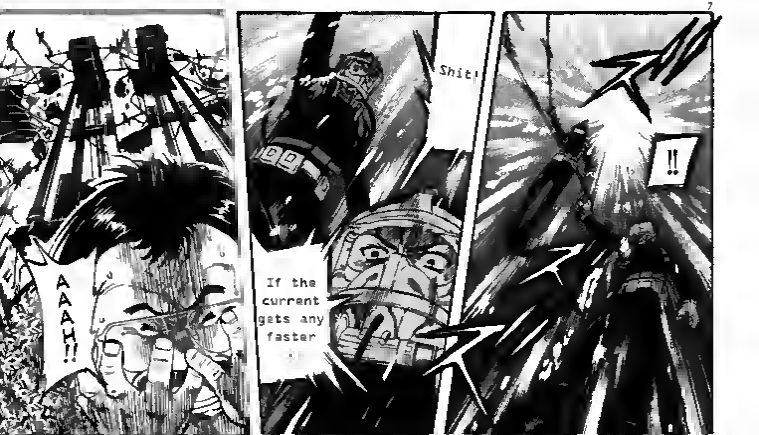



Why can't they move faster !?
You'll hit the bridge, you morons!
The gap between the bridge and the ship has shrunk again!
H-hey! Hey, hey, hey!

This is...
A dangerous gamble based purely on luck!
They're using the smallest number of cables necessary. Plus the current is affecting them. If Tekkai tries to move at full speed...
It will end up dropping the load it worked so hard to pick up in the first place.
They can't move any faster.

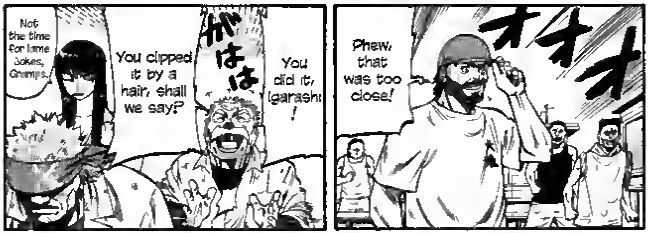

Care-
fully,
care-
fully.
Slowly,
slowly.
Let's go,
bastards!

!!
It just bumped into the bridge, didn't it!?
Aaaah!


Shit!
!!
If the current gets any faster
AAAH!!

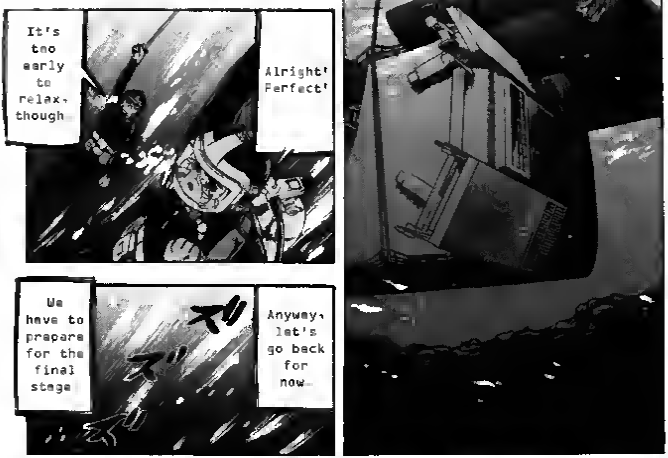
They made it!
Oooh!

It's a succ-ess!
They did it! They made it out!


Not the time for lame Jokes, Grumps.
You clipped it by a hair, shall we say?
ガハハ
You did it, Igarashi!
Phew, that was too close!

You're nothing but a pain in the ass!
Yo, Kanmon Bridge!
BASTARD
How dare you bump into my precious Tekkai's boom

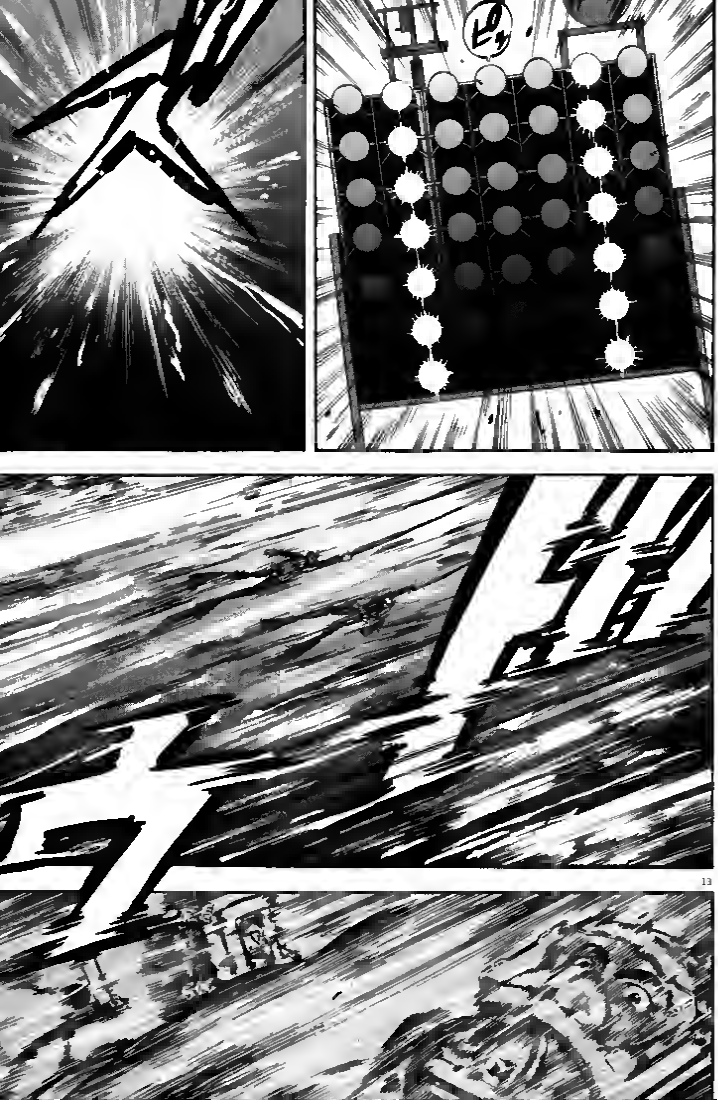
Heh...
.....
Sorry to bother you...
Ya bastard...!


It's too early to relax, though.
Alright! Perfect!
We have to prepare for the final stage.
Anyway, let's go back for now.

Hah! You're barely hanging by a thread.
What, going back already? I could stay here all day. Hehehe...

12

Thanks to the fierce current, even my arms are going numb...
Gramps, please raise us up.
Right away!
...Well, it's the same for me, though.

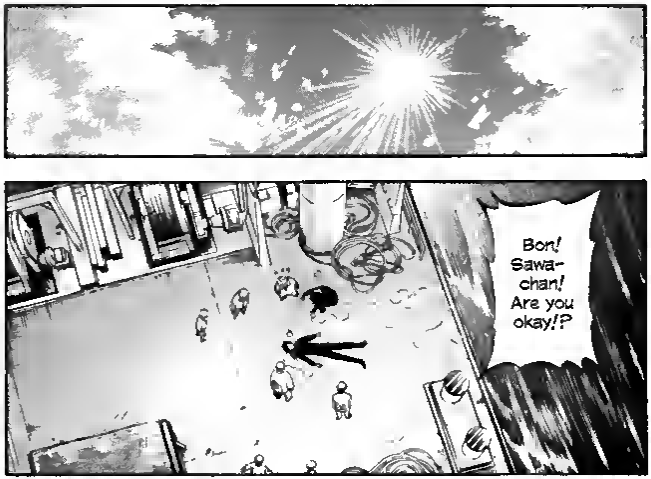

ヒュ

Let go, you fool!
You'll be washed away too!

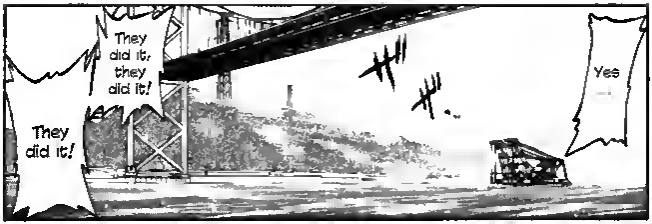
Fool... this is not the time!!
Gaah...
I told you, saving lives is our company motto!

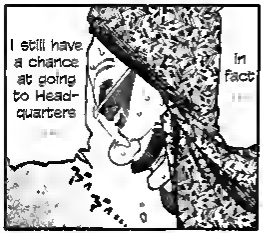
Having a buddy is great, isn't it?
See?

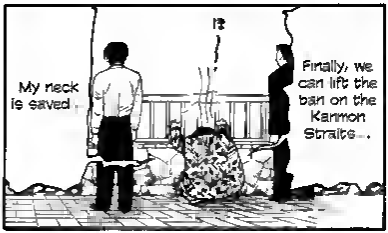
Hmph!


Bon! Sawa-chan! Are you okay!?

Sawa-chan, what happened?
No...
Prob-lemo...
Nothing


They did it, they did it!
They did it!
Yes


I still have a chance at going to Headquarters
In fact


My neck is saved
Finally, we can lift the ban on the Kanmon Straits...

18

This disaster is not over!
Until they move somewhere out of the way and raise the ship completely...

Not yet
Eh?

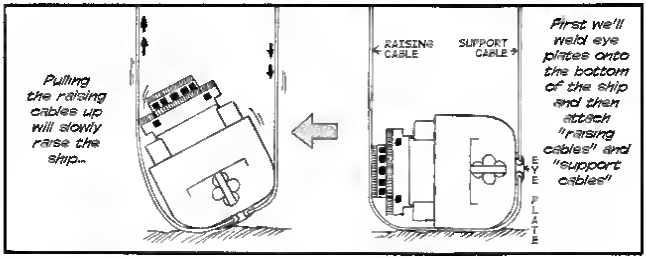
Yes, sir!
Until the wreck is completely raised, make sure none of the trapped ships move an inch!
Alert all patrol boats and ships!

No...Mr Kaizai is completely right.
Mr Kaizai! Aren't you overdoing it!?

The most dangerous point in any raising job is coming up very soon...

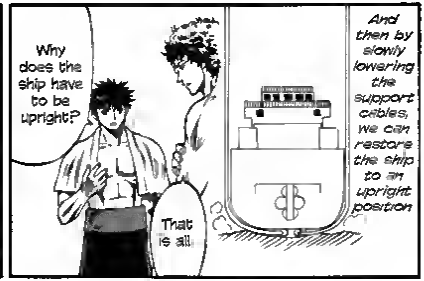
Okay, let's go over the last few steps.

We'll turn the wreck upright.
Once we get to a place where we can safely raise it,


Pulling the raising cables up will slowly raise the ship...
RAISING CABLE
SUPPORT CABLE
EYE PLATE
First we'll weld eye plates onto the bottom of the ship and then attach "raising cables" and "support cables"

20

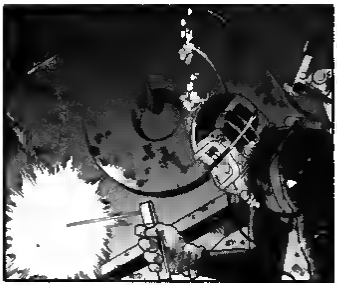
Nope, that's not it!
So that it's easier to balance.

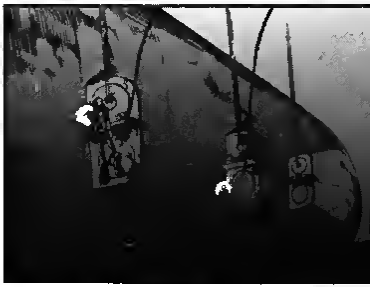

Why does the ship have to be upright?
That is all.
And then by slowly lowering the support cables, we can restore the ship to an upright position

Captain! We've reached the spot!
Right!
It's so the ship looks beautiful coming out of the water!
.....

Yeah!
Alright, assholes! Let's raise this baby in one go!

If we spill any oil we'll never be able to face the fishermen!
Form an oil fence around the ship!
Yes sir!





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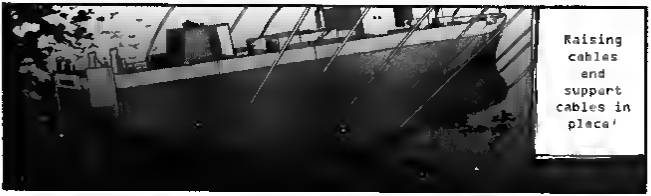
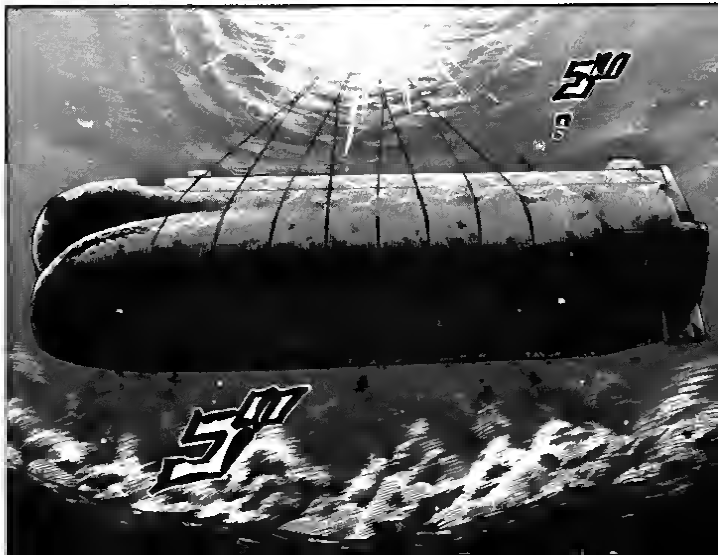

Raising cables and support cables in place!

Start righting the ship!
23
It's upright!
We're counting on you, old man!
YEAH!
Now there's no bridge over my head...

2000 tons is nothing!
Tekkai can raise a maximum of 4000 tons!

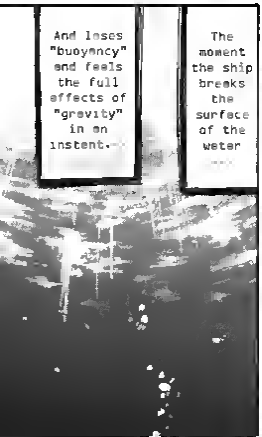

5TON
5T

So easily

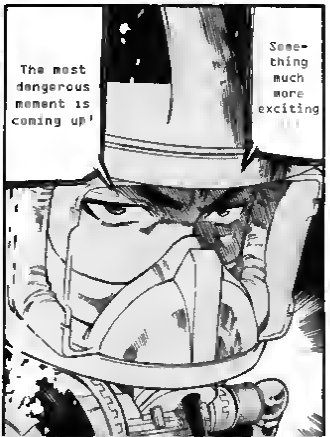
Wow

It's too soon to be excited
S-sorry It's my first time so I was so excited

If it falls down, you'll be crushed!
Idiot! Don't go under the ship!


And loses "buoyancy" and feels the full effects of "gravity" in an instent.
The moment the ship breaks the surface of the water

!?

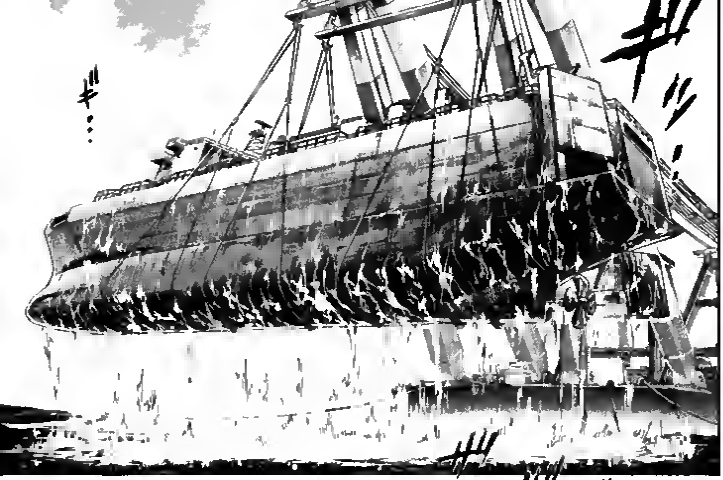

The most dangerous moment is coming up!
Something much more exciting

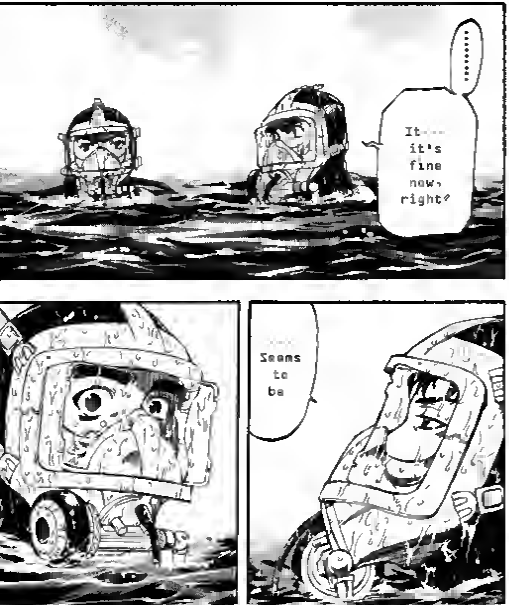
With the combined effects of gravity and the weight of the water left in the ship...
There's a chance that the ship might break apart!
!!!!!!!!!!!!

The ship might break apart!
And feels the full effects of gravity and the weight of the water inside...
The moment it breaks the surface of the water...

Chapter 27 At Last, the Curtain Falls
Come up, ya bas-tard!

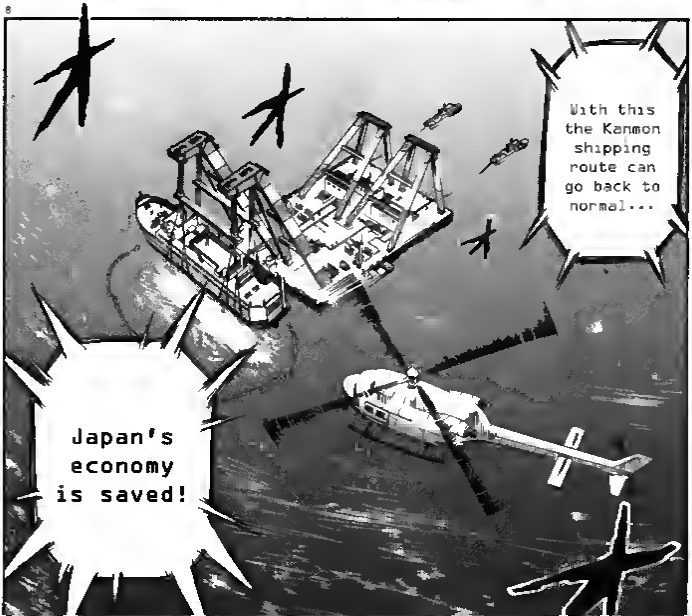
Chapter 27 At Last, the Curtain Falls

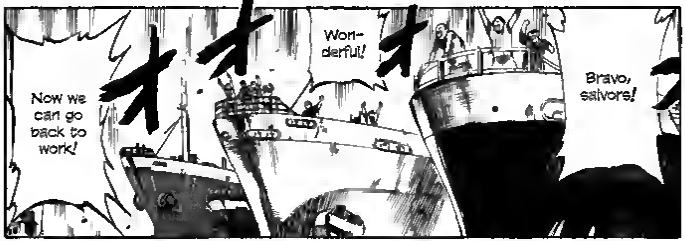



It... it's fine now, right?
.....
.....

Seems to be

Please look, everyone!
The ship—the sunken ship is out of the water!

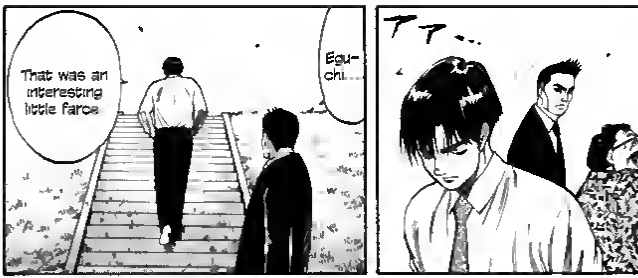

With this the Kanmon shipping route can go back to normal...
Japan's economy is saved!

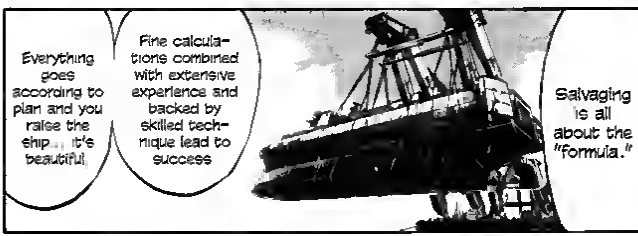

Wonderful!
Bravo, salvors!
Now we can go back to work!

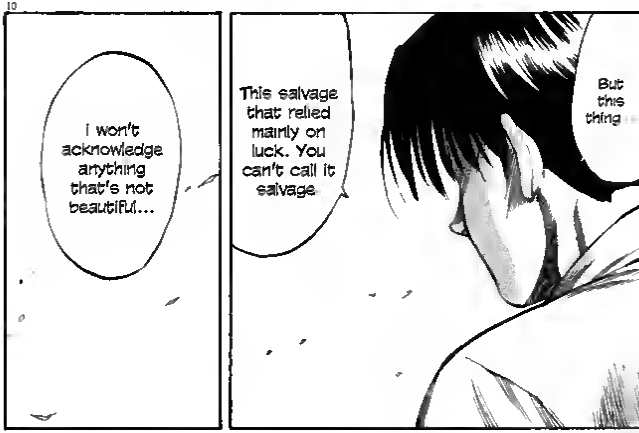
Kanji...
Your son did a brilliant job!

My job is saved!
We can go fishing!

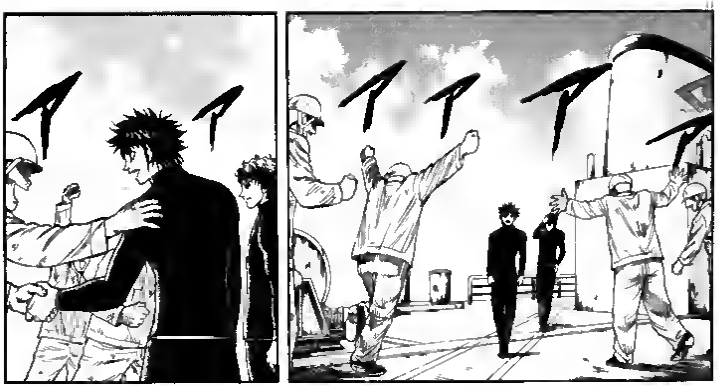
This time they really did it!

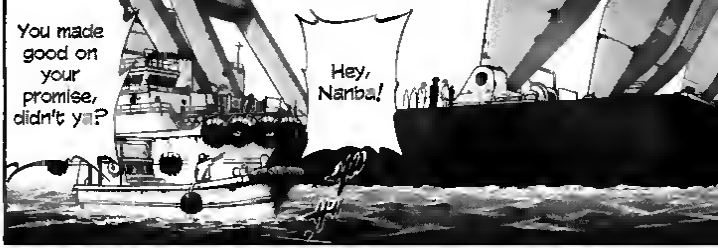

That was an interesting little farce
Eguchi...
Tt...


Everything goes according to plan and you raise the ship... it's beautiful
Fine calculations combined with extensive experience and backed by skilled technique lead to success
Salvaging is all about the "formula."


I won't acknowledge anything that's not beautiful...
This salvage that relied mainly on luck. You can't call it salvage
But this thing...

I won't acknowledge it.

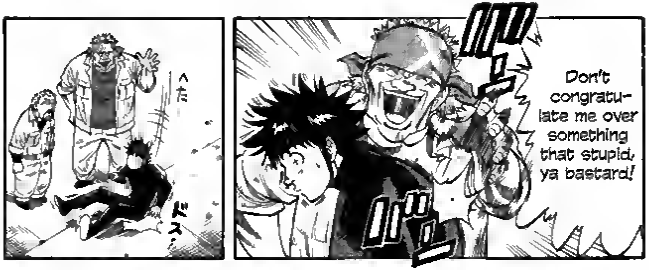


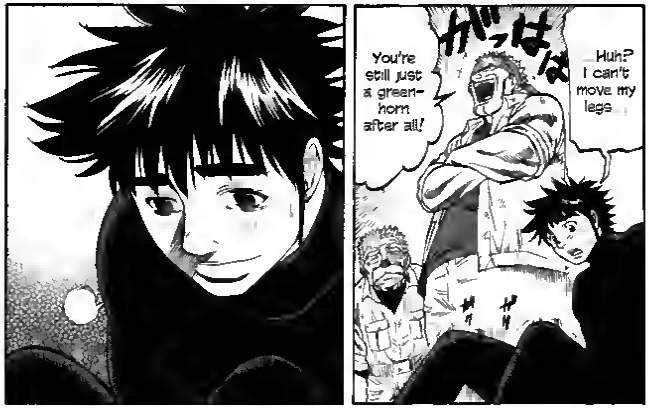

You made good on your promise, didn't you?
Hey, Nanba!

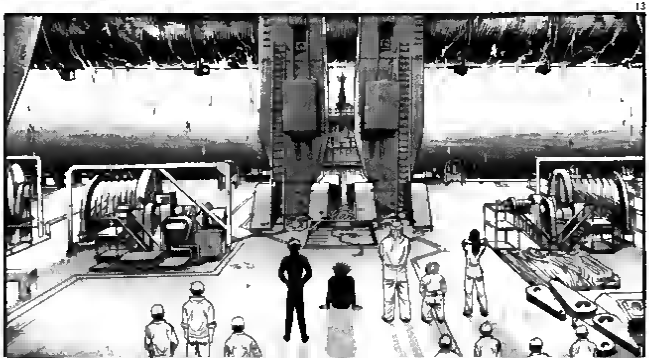
Thank you!
.....
I'll give you the pick of the catch as a reward!
Well done!

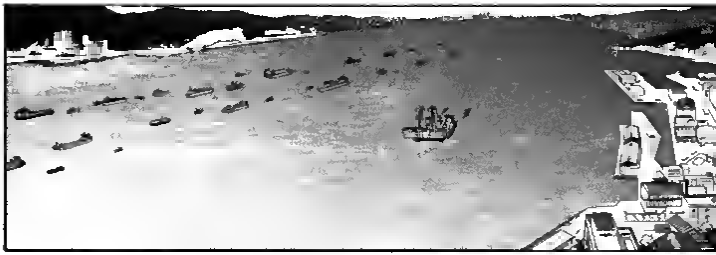
Huuuh!? I could've done that in my sleep!
You too, Captain Getting out of such a sticky situation...

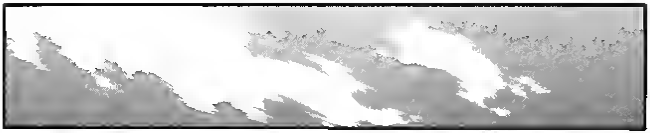
がはは
You did it, Bon!
Great job, successor, Sawamura!

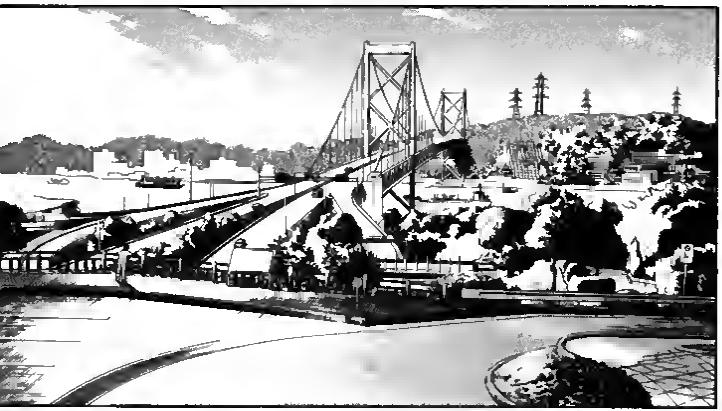

へた
ドス
Don't congratulate me over something that stupid, ya bastard!

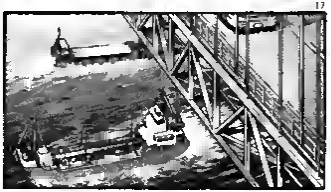

がっはは
Huh? I can't move my legs
You're still just a greenhorn after all!

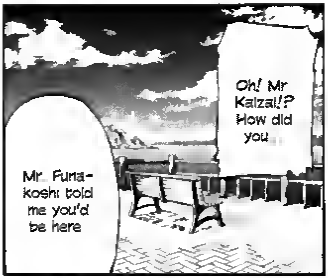











Mr. Funakoshi told me you'd be here
Oh! Mr Kaizai!? How did you...

Nanba!

I'm sure Kanji must be happy too...

Japan's economy and everyone's lives will slowly come back to normal...
The Kanmon route is back to normal.

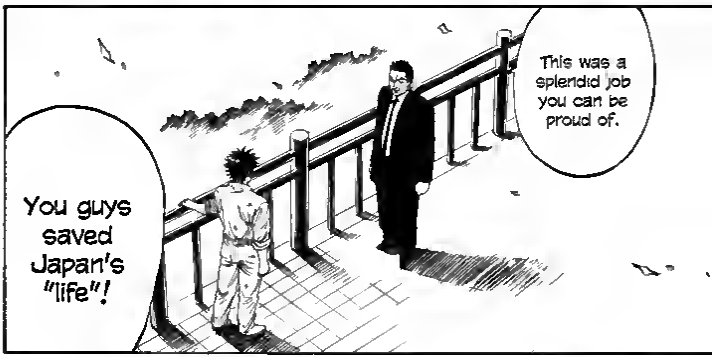
You knew my da... my father?
We were childhood friends. He told me a lot about you.
Eh!? Like what?

He told me how you hated the salvage business and left home to become a Coast Guard diver...
When he was drunk he'd go on and on about it.
Is... Is that so?
Haha that's pretty embarrassing...

So how is it?
How do you like running a salvage company?
There are... still plenty of things I don't know. Plenty of things I still can't figure out, but—

Someday
I want to become a sailor that my father can be proud of.

Both sailors and the Coast Guard have their part to play in protecting the sea.


This was a splendid job you can be proud of.
You guys saved Japan's "life"!

We didn't really...
No

ﾚﾊ

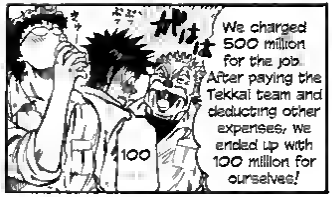
22

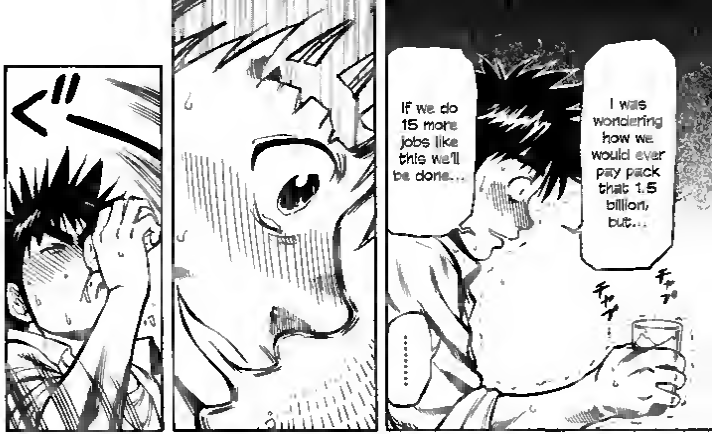
Chapter 28 An Uninvited Guest

Booze tastes awesome after a big job!

がはは
Captain, that's the 14th toast already!
Another toast, to the Tekkai Team and Namba Salvage!
Shut up! We're doing 100 more after this, ya bastard!

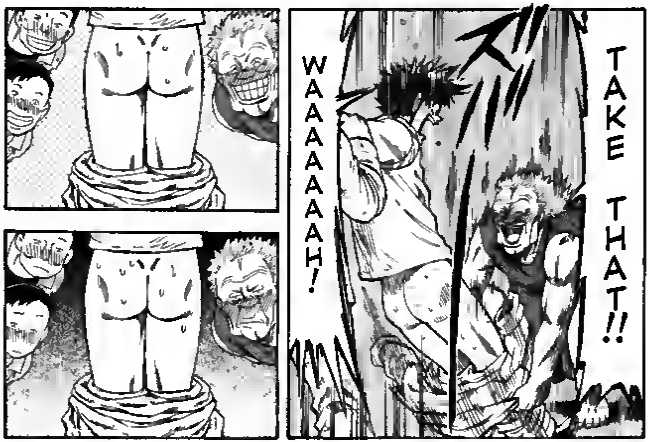
*APPROX $1 MILLION USD


We charged 500 million for the job. After paying the Tekkai team and deducting other expenses, we ended up with 100 million for ourselves!
100


I was wondering how we would ever pay back that 1.5 billion, but...
If we do 15 more jobs like this we'll be done...
.....

Alright! Let's have some top-quality sushi tonight!
Yeah! Let's go all out!
Ohh, Mr. Successor is getting into it too!

Hey, cut that out! You'll make my sake go bad!
Huuh!? Men of the sea don't worry about little things like that!
Let's see if you've got something worthy of a boss down there!
ふっふ…

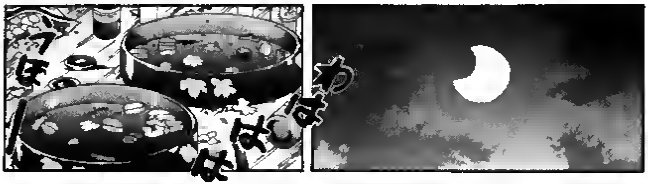

TAKE THAT!!
WAAAAAAAH!

Hmm— average, I guess
Hmmm~~~~..
Nothing much to say about this one
What a boring guy

This is what I mean by Boss Size man!

Oho, that's more like it!
What the hell!?

6



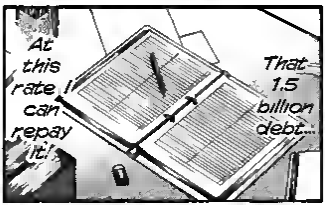
A car came falling down right on top of me!
We had such a close shave when we did the survey dive!
おおっ
Juuuet as it fell I slipped to the side like this!
わはは
He's such a bad drunk.
Ignore him, ignore him!
And then you were SO scared, you said my name "Rintarou!" for the first time!
Come to think of it... I've never called you by name before either...

Sawa-
mura
Takeshi
...
Hmm
...
Sawa-
chan...
Sawa-
san...
Sawa
-san!
Call
him
Sawa-
chan!
Call me
what-
ever you
like.
What a
worthless
guy, worrying
about some-
thing like
that.
Yeah
And since
I'm the
boss I can't
really call
him "san"...
Calling
him
"chan"
would be
a bit
cheeky.
Impudent
brat!
Just
call me
Sawa!
Take!
How's
that?
Ah!
Umm
...

I learned a lot from this job.
I look forward to working with you from now on
Sawa!
Hmph.
You were nothing but trouble...
Come on!
Stop mumbling and have another!

I'm blessed with talented friends...

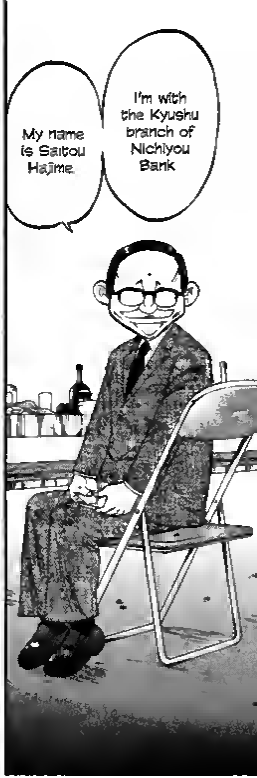
Dad...
I managed to finish my first big job somehow.


At this rate I can repay it!
That 1.5 billion debt...

Dad! I really think I can do this!

Let me borrow this pen.
Do excuse me
Please come over here.
トン…
Who is in charge here?
Who are you?

Nichiyou Bank
Kyushu Branch
Saitou Hajime
Pleased to meet you


I'm with the Kyushu branch of Nichiyou Bank
My name is Saitou Hajime.

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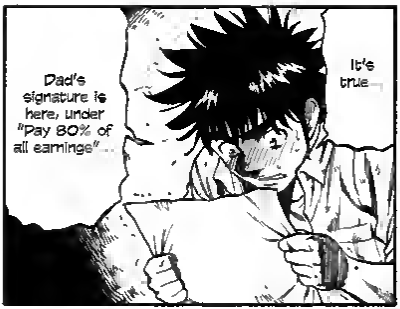
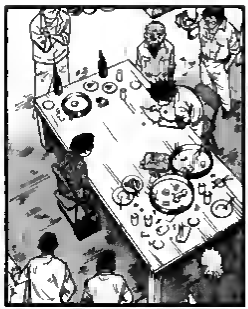
As agreed upon with the previous owner, I'm here to collect 80% of your earnings
Bank ....?
What business do you have with us?

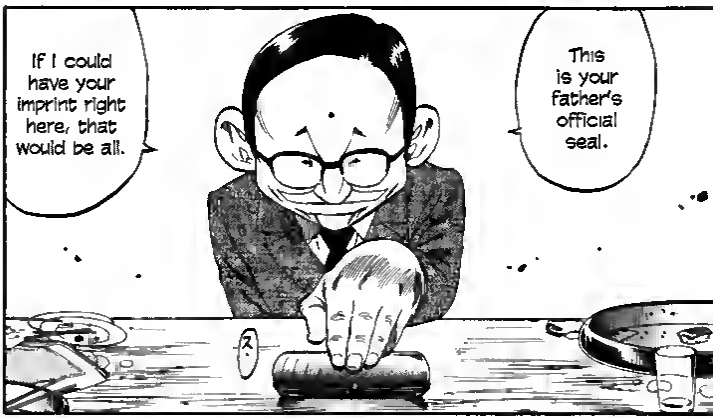
Is this one of those new scams going around? Are you a loan shark!? Get out!
Who the hell are you!?
WHAT THE HELL!?

Bon. He's not a loan shark and he's not a scammer.
I, I'm so sorry. Bon doesn't know about this yet...
Idiot!

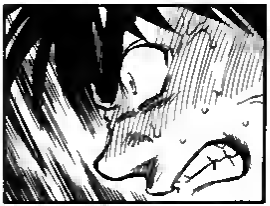
Naniba Salvage wouldn't be around today if not for him!
He's the man who approved our 1.5 billion yen loan after everyone else had turned us down...

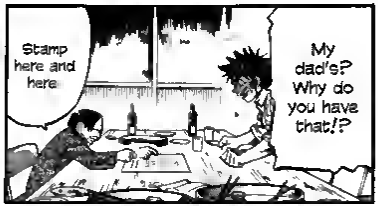

Dad's signature is here, under "Pay 80% of all earnings"...
It's true




If I could have your imprint right here, that would be all.
This is your father's official seal.

14




Stamp here and here
My dad's? Why do you have that!?

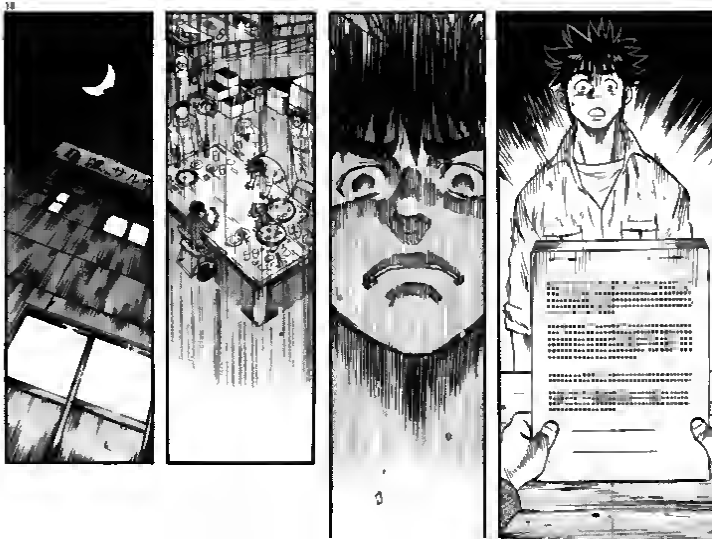
Do you know how hard we worked to make that money!?
Like hell I will!
We combined our efforts and worked ourselves nearly to death to finally raise that ship from under the bridge!
おお
That's right! You tell him, successor!
You think I'm just going to say "Here you go, 80%" after that!?
I'll never stamp that thing!
And here
Here

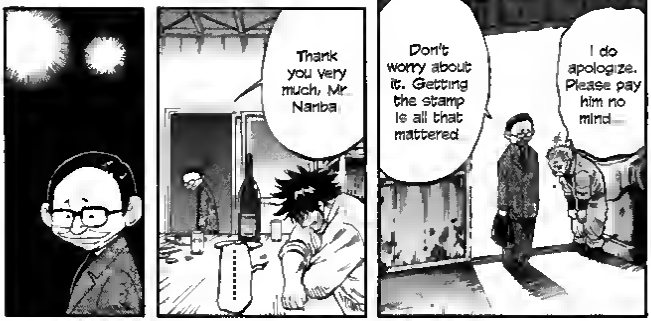
You stupid boss!
Somebody hold him down!
I'm sorry, Son is just a little drunk...
!!!
!!!
!!!
I can't stamp it...
.....
That has nothing to do with it!

Hiro did all the negotiations with the ship and cargo owners by herself, and she mapped out the changes in the weather and the tidal data. And she made great meals for us at the same time.
Gramps stayed up all night calculating the weight of the cargo. When Sawa and I were underwater he gave us instructions from above without rest.

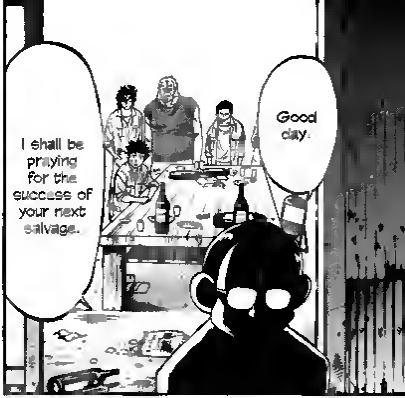
They stayed up all night without rest to make preparations and to raise the ship...
The Tekkai team too...
And Sawa he did all the work necessary to raise the ship without a hitch...
I was good for nothing from start to finish.
.....
But . As for me...
So... please go away for now!
When I'm a first-rate salvor I'll pay it all back!
I don't want to stamp that thing...and cause more trouble for everyone!

I've got plenty more where that came from.




Thank you very much, Mr. Naniba.
Don't worry about it. Getting the stamp is all that mattered.
I do apologize. Please pay him no mind.

By the way. Because of interest, your debt goes up by 389,000 yen every day. If your total debt rises above 1.535 billion yen, we will force you to file for bankruptcy.
Even if we subtract the 80% I received today from the total debt, in about 295 days your company will automatically go bankrupt, so please be careful.



Can I...

Can I really do this...?

VOL. 3 END